Crescent Moon™
TOKYOPOP®
vol.3
HARUKO IIDA
STORY BY SHUEISHA COMPANY TAKAYUKI MATSUDA

Haruko Iida

Original Works By
Red Company/Takamura Matsuda

Volume 3

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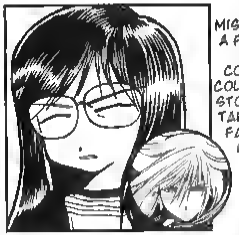
NOZOMU MOEGI
A VAMPIRE DESPITE HIS BLONDE HAIR AND BLUE EYES, HE SPEAKS WITH A KANSAI DIALECT. HE'S A SMOOTH TALKER AND LOVES THE LADIES

MITSURU SUOU
A TENGU. DUE TO A TOUGH CHILDHOOD, MITSURU NOT ONLY HATES AND BEGRUDGES THE HUMAN RACE, BUT DISTRUSTS THE LUNAR ONE AS WELL



MISOKA ASAGI
A FOX DEMON. ALWAYS COOL, CALM, COLLECTED AND STOIC, MISOKA TAKES ACTION FAST AND IS RESPECTED AS THE UNSPOKEN LEADER OF THE GROUP

AKIRA YAMABUKI
A WEREWOLF. A HAPPY GO LUCKY CHARACTER, AKIRA HATES TO DWELL ON ANYTHING SERIOUS FOR TOO LONG. HE'S AN AWESOME COOK

OBORO KUROSAKI
OWNER OF THE BAR "MOONSHINE"

KATSURA SHION
PIANIST FOR THE BAR "MOONSHINE"

SHIROGANE
RULER OF THE LUNAR RACE, AND THE CURRENT "EMPEROR OF THE MOON." HE IS ALSO OBORO'S NEPHEW

KIMITERU KUSAKABE
A POLICE INSPECTOR INVESTIGATING THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS

YOUKEI NISHINO
ONE OF DETECTIVE KUSAKABE'S FAVORITE MINIONS. HE'S A POLICE SERGEANT

HOKUTO KOUDOKUI
LEADER OF THE DEMON-EXTERMINATION AND CAPTURING TROUPE "DAWN'S VENUS"

MUTSUKI HAYASHI
A MEMBER OF "DAWN'S VENUS"

KEIKO KIMURA
A MEMBER OF "DAWN'S VENUS." KEIKO HAS THE POWER OF PROPHESY. SHE IS ALSO ONE OF MAHIRU'S CLASSMATES

ONE DAY, HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR MAHIRU SHIRAISHI FOUND HERSELF APPROACHED BY FOUR MYSTERIOUS YOUTHS. THEY WERE MITSURU, NOZOMU, AKIRA AND MISOKA, WHO QUICKLY EXPLAINED MAHIRU WAS THE "DESCENDENT OF THE PRINCESS," AND THEIR ONLY REAL HOPE FOR RECLAIMING GEMS NAMED "THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON" STOLEN BY HUMANS OVER 1,000 YEARS AGO.

THESE YOUTHS WERE NOT HUMAN BUT MEMBERS OF A DEMONIC RACE CALLED "PEOPLE OF THE MOON," WHO FORMED A BAND OF THIEVES IN TOKYO KNOWN AS, "THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS." FROM THESE YOUTHS, MAHIRU LEARNED SHE'S A DIRECT DESCENDENT OF "THE MINISTER OF THE LEFT'S PRINCESS," WHOSE ANCESTORS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR STEALING THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON SO MANY YEARS AGO. IT IS ALSO BECAUSE OF THIS HERITAGE THAT MAHIRU POSSESSES THE ABILITY TO DRAW OUT THE HIDDEN ABILITIES AND POWERS OF THE "LUNAR RACE."

THOUGH AT FIRST SHE WAS HESITANT TO ASSIST THE YOUTHS WITH THEIR CAUSE, A DESIRE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HER POWERS DROVE MAHIRU TO MOVE IN WITH THEM AT THE NIGHT CLUB WHERE THEY WORK, NAMED "MOONSHINE."

OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE LUNAR RACE SHE'S MET, ONLY MITSURU, WHO HARBORS A DEEP HATRED FOR ALL OF HUMANITY, IS UNKIND TO HER. BUT EVERY TIME HE LASHES OUT AT HER, MAHIRU KEEPS HER COOL AND STANDS FIRM IN HER CONVICTIONS, WHICH, IN TURN, SLOWLY WHITTLES DOWN MITSURU'S HATE.

IN THE MEANTIME, INSPECTOR KUSAKABE, WHO IS DEAD-SET ON BUSTING THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS, HAS APPROACHED AN ANCIENT HOUSE KNOWN FOR ITS MYSTICAL ABILITIES IN CAPTURING AND TAMING DEMONS. OBLIVIOUS TO THIS FACT, MAHIRU AND THE LUNAR RACE HAVE COME TO THE WORLD PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL (WPF) TO SEEK OUT ANOTHER SHARD OF THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON, AND SUBSEQUENTLY ARE TRAPPED BY THIS ANCIENT HOUSE. WILL THEY BE ABLE TO RESCUE AKIRA FROM HIS CAPTORS?

MAHIRU SHIRAISHI: A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL. MAHIRU POSSESSES THE ABILITY TO AWAKEN AND DRAW OUT THE HIDDEN POWERS OF THE "LUNAR RACE"

The Story So Far...

Crescent Moon

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An Ancient Capital Where Thoughts are Stirred and Shaken.
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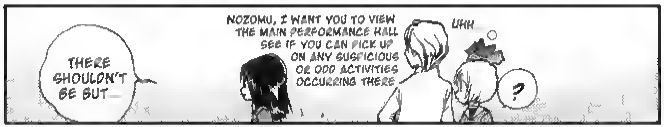
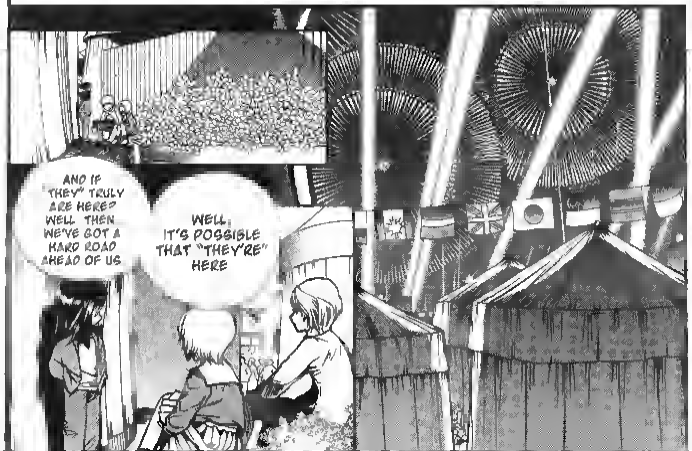
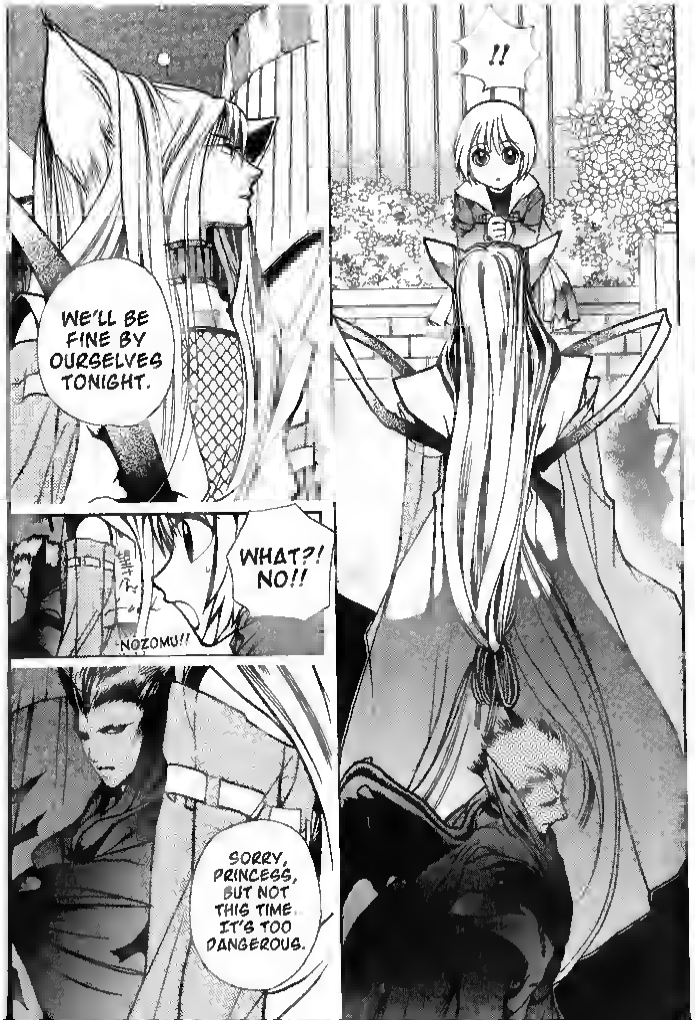
IT CAN'T BE BUT
THEN THE GROUND BENEATH HIM JUST SPARKED REALLY BRIGHT AND--BAM!! WHEN WE COULD SEE AGAIN, AKIRA WAS--
A PENTAGRAM?


THERE SHOULDN'T BE BUT...
NOZOMU, I WANT YOU TO VIEW THE MAIN PERFORMANCE HALL SEE IF YOU CAN PICK UP ON ANY SUSPICIOUS OR ODD ACTIVITIES OCCURRING THERE
UHH
?


AND IF THEY" TRULY ARE HERE? WELL THEN WE'VE GOT A HARD ROAD AHEAD OF US
WELL, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT "THEY'RE" HERE

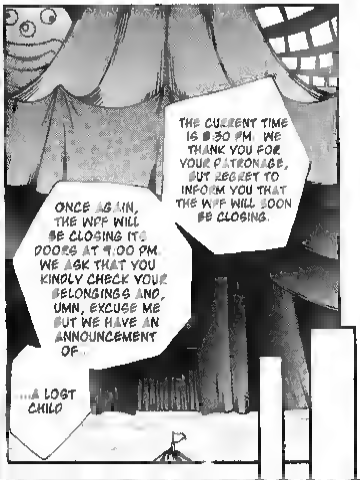
AKIRA'S GONE?!!
I DON'T REALLY KNOW MYSELF ALL OF A SUDDEN THIS PENTAGRAM APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE AND..
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED BACK THERE?


!!
WE'LL BE FINE BY OURSELVES TONIGHT.
WHAT?! NO!!
NOZOMU!!
SORRY, PRINCESS, BUT NOT THIS TIME. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.

"THEY?" WHO THE HECK ARE "THEY?" I DON'T GET IT!!
I SEE SOMETHING! A BLACK TENT!! SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON THERE
I SENSE AKIRA I CAN HEAR HIS CRIES THROUGH MAHIRU
BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A TRAP, NOZOMU?
HUH? B-BUT!!
I... I WANT TO GO TOO!! MISOKA?
PRINCESS? WOULD YOU MIND GOING BACK TO THE SHOW AND TAKING THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON WITH YOU?

DAMMIT!! LET ME OUT OF HERE!!
GRRR!! DAMN THING WON'T BUDGE!!
ガシャぁん
CARD CONTAINMENT SPELL
.....
UHHGHHH..

NOZOMU!! MISOKA!!
"
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED ME TO COME WITH YOU GUYS BECAUSE YOU NEEDED ME!!
THAT JUST ISN'T FAIR! TOTALLY NOT FAIR! AM I REALLY THAT USELESS?


THE CURRENT TIME IS 8:30 PM. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE, BUT REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT THE WPF WILL SOON BE CLOSING.
ONCE AGAIN, THE WPF WILL BE CLOSING ITS DOORS AT 9:00 PM. WE ASK THAT YOU KINDLY CHECK YOUR BELONGINGS AND, UMN, EXCUSE ME BUT WE HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF...
...A LOST CHILD

SO, UMN, BACK TO THE TOPIC OF THE BLACK TENT, OK...? NOZOMU?
OH.

HMM. THAT'S MAHIRU SHIRAISHI!
WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE? IT'S CLOSING TIME
H-HIMURA!!
SHIRAISHI! YOUR THINGS...
I... I... OH! WELL, UMM, I MEAN.. I, URRM-
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! THANKS!!
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE COIN LOCKERS, THEY'RE BEHIND YOU
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!! MY THINGS!! UHM...
CRAP! AND I THINK MY TRANSFORMATION IS ABOUT TO CUT OUT, TOO!!
HE'S NOT LIKE THE OTHER HUMANS
THIS ONE!!
OH, COME ON, KEIKO, THINGS ARE JUST GETTING GOOD, GIRLIE
WHAT? WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? I THOUGHT I WAS DONE HERE.
GUESS YOU COULDN'T SAY THAT...
AND I NEVER WILL, SO JUST SHOVE OFF AND LEAVE ME OUT OF THIS!!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THOSE STUPID MONSTERS!!

PANT
SIR? ABOUT THOSE KIDS THEY... THEY'RE JUST NOT RIGHT.
I CAN'T FIGURE OUT FOR THE LIFE OF ME WHY THEY'D GO AFTER A KINKY DINK CHEAP PIECE OF JEWELRY LIKE THIS.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WOULD YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THIS THING THOSE CREATURES WERE AFTER?
THEY DIDN'T COME HERE TO JUST CAPTURE THE MONSTERS...IT'S LIKE THEY CAME HERE TO KILL THEM
WHAT?!
HUFF, HUFF, HUFF.
DAMMIT ALL!! YOUHEI!! WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY NOW?

OKAY, THEN.
!!
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!
SORRY!
PANT
PANT
THERE YOU ARE, INSPECTOR KUSAKABE!! IT'S TERRIBLE!!
THE POLICE!!
AND WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING HERE, YOUHEI? I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO HANG AROUND WITH THOSE KIDS?

I CAN HEAR AKIRA'S CRIES FROM WITHIN.
IT'S GOT TO BE THE SAME TENT NOZOMU WAS TALKING ABOUT.
I SEE IT! YEAH, A BLACK TENT
THE BLACK TENT...

OH MY GOSH!!
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?!

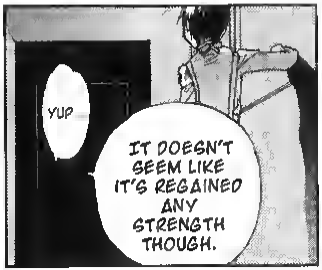
WAIT A MINUTE!! I BET THIS WAS THEIR PLAN FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!!
PANT
HUH--?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SIR?
PANT

I'M SUPER SORRY, SIR, BUT COULD YOU JUST GIVE US A BIT MORE TIME TONIGHT?

AFTER THEY CAPTURED THE MONSTER, THEY TOLD EVERYONE BUT THE "SPECIALISTS" TO LEAVE THE AREA, YOU SEE, INSPECTOR. SO NATURALLY, I GOT THE BOOT
IT'S WAY HOT
DAMN, IT'S COLD
I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THEM THE MOMENT I MET 'EM AND BOY, WERE MY SUSPICIONS DEAD ON. I'VE BROUGHT IN SOME BACK-STABBERS TO THE CASE.
TMP

SO WHERE ARE THEY NOW, YOUHEI?!
UP THERE, SIR. THE BLACK TENT WAY IN THE BACK.
WHAT?! YOU'RE SERIOUS? AND YOU ACTUALLY FELL FOR THAT? THAT'S WHY YOU'LL ALWAYS BE A SERGEANT, DOLT!!

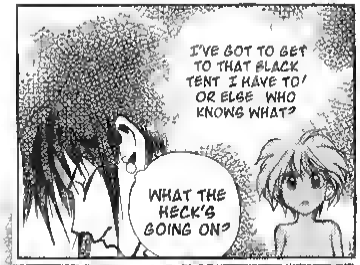
NOPE
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER WITH MITSURU?
I DON'T KNOW
MITSURU? HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING FROM THE OTHERS, YET?
!!
NOT TO CHANGE THE TOPIC, LORD OBORO, BUT, WELL, IT'S THE TEARDROP OF—
THE MOON, SIR
STRANGE THEY SHOULD HAVE CONTACTED US BY NOW.
I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED
OH NO, AKIRA! THEY'LL ALL DIE!!!
WHAT THE HELL?
IT'S HER VOICE.
OWWW
OW, OW, OW
ALL RIGHT
NOTHING'S WRONG
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MITSURU? ARE YOU OKAY?
PATN
LORD OBORO? A MOMENT PLEASE?
?
TADUMP
TADUMP
TADUMP
TADUMP
.....
WAAH!!
OH MY GOSH! I DON'T HAVE A PHONE AND I DON'T EVEN HAVE MR BAT WHAT SHOULD I DO? THEY'RE GOING TO BE KILLED!

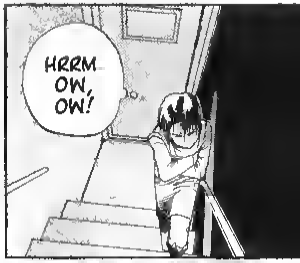

YUP
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT'S REGAINED ANY STRENGTH THOUGH.

I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES AT FIRST
THIS PIECE SHOULD HAVE EXCHANGED ALL OF ITS LIFE'S ENERGY FOR MITSURU'S RETURN.

RESONATING WITH THE OTHER TEARDROPS OF THE MOON--?

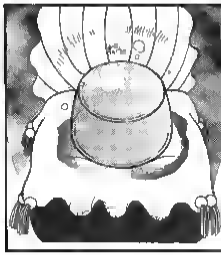
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, MY BODY'S RESONATING WITH THE STRENGTH OF HER TEARDROP?
I WONDER IF SHE MANAGED TO GET A HOLD OF THE TEARDROP THEY WENT LOOKING FOR?


I'VE GOT TO GET TO THAT BLACK TENT I HAVE TO' OR ELSE WHO KNOWS WHAT?
WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON?


HRRM OW, OW!

.....

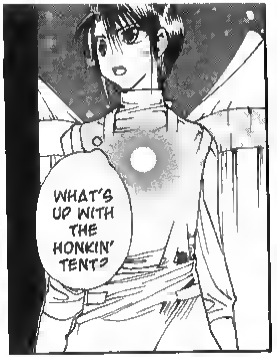
I BELIEVE IT MAY BE RESONATING WITH THE OTHER TEARDROPS OF THE MOON.



NO NEED IF THEY NEED HELP, THEY'LL CALL FOR IT.
SHALL WE HAVE MITSURU RENDEZVOUS WITH THEM, SIR?
!!
I HAVE TO GET THE TEARDROP BACK TO THEM BUT I CAN'T JUST LEAVE EVERYONE BACK HERE!
ポワ…
ポワ
GRRR! WHY THE HECK DO I HAVE TO BE THE ONE MULLING OVER THESE ANNOYING THINGS?
JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO US.
LET ME GUESS, IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, RIGHT?
SO WHY THE HELL SHOULD I HAVE TO LISTEN TO TH T-STUPID GIRL'S VOICE?
!!
OH MY GOSH, MY CHEST HURTS SO MUCH! I...I JUST HAVE TO GO HELP THEM!!
NO WAY! SHE COULDN'T REALLY HAVE SNAGGED THE TEARDROP... COULD SHE?
I DON'T WANT EVERYONE TO DIE!!
!!
PLEASE DON'T DIE, PLEASE DON'T DIE!!

!!

HE WENT INTO THAT BLACK TENT!! IS HE THE BAD GUY?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!


WHAT'S UP WITH THE HONKIN' TENT?

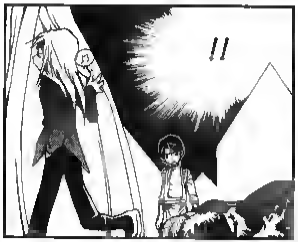
OH PLEASE, CRANKY MUCH? AS I RECALL, YOU MANAGED TO KILL ONE OF THEM TOO, DIDN'T YOU?
NOW GET THE HELL OUT OF OUR WAY!!
NO ONE ASKED YOU TO KILL THEM!!

I WONDER IF MITSURU FELT THIS WAY TOO...
...WHEN HE WENT TO THAT EXHIBITION ALL BY HIMSELF?
PANT PANT

YES! THAT'LL WORK EVEN THOUGH I'M TERRIFIED OF BEING HERE ALL ALONE.
IF I SNEAK IN THROUGH THE BACK...

!!

SO THEN, HOW TO RELIEVE ALL THAT TENSION? DON'T WORRY. THIS WILL BE OVER WAY QUICK


!!

WOO HOO! THAT WAS WAY TOO EASY!

WHAT THE HELL IS SHE DOING, THINKING ABOUT THAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
HOW FREAKIN' IRRITATING!!
FUCK
FUCK
FUCK

OH NO! I ACCIDENTALLY CIRCLED AROUND IT INSTEAD!!

WHY THE HELL DO I KEEP GETTING THESE STUPID VISIONS?!
DAMMIT ALL!! THIS IS NONE OF MY DAMN BUSINESS

SHH, QUIET THERE, AKIRA.
N... NOZOMU!!
SNIFF
ビリッ
YOU ALMOST KILLED ME!! CAN'T YOU WAIT TILL WE GET HOME?
I'M HUNGRY NOW.
HMM.
RAWR!!
DOOHHH!!
ガルルル

WHEW! FINALLY! I MADE IT IN.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS? YOU'D BETTER 'FESS UP, PRONTO!!
AND THIS GENTLEMAN HERE IS MUTSURA HAYASHI.
ONCE AGAIN, MY APOLOGIES. MY NAME, SIR, IS HOKUTO KOUDOKUI.

WOULD YOU MIND STEPPING INTO THE LIGHT AS WELL, PLEASE? WE'D CERTAINLY BE HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE.
AHH, FORGIVE US. THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OF YOU, ISN'T THERE? HOW RUDE OF US.
WELCOME, DEAR DENIZENS OF THE MOON.

!!
!!
!!
!!

THAT NAME. IT HAS A FAMILIAR RING TO IT...
KOUDOKUJI...
HEH HEH.
OUR BLOODLINES HAVE BEEN INTERTWINED BY FATE FOR CENTURIES NOW.
AS IT VERY WELL SHOULD.
AND AFTER ALL...IT'S JUST MY FAMILY'S DUTY...TO EXTERMINATE YOUR FILTHY RACE!!

AND YOUR PEOPLE LOST TO US CENTURIES AGO.
THERE ARE NO MORE SAFE HAVENS FOR YOUR KIND IN OUR WORLD. THE HUMANS HAVE WON, YOU SEE.
SIMPLY PUT, YOUR EXISTENCE MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL.
NOW, ENOUGH CHATTER! HOW ABOUT YOU DIE GRACEFULLY NOW, HUH?
FWSH
Chapter of the First Moon Part II. The End.
AH YES, HOW THE GOOD TIMES HAVE ARRIVED.
ALL OF MY STRENGTH...
DAMMIT!
SO HOW DO YOU LIKE OUR BLOOD LIGHT-FUELED PENTAGRAM, HUH? IT'S A WORK OF ART, I TELL YA.
IS IT NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU HUMANS TO HAVE STOLEN THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON FROM US?
WHY MUST YOU CONTINUE TO HUNT AND TORMENT US?!

Chapter of the First Moon
The Demons Battle an Ancient Enemy
Part 3.

HA HA! ♫
YOU JUST TRY SOMETHING AGAINST MY FRIENDS, BUDDY!! JUST TRY!!!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR IT!!
AND IF YOU HAPPENED TO KILL ONE OF THEM THEN YOU'D REALLY BE IN TROUBLE

GRRR.
I WON'T LET YOU!
NOOOOOOOO!!

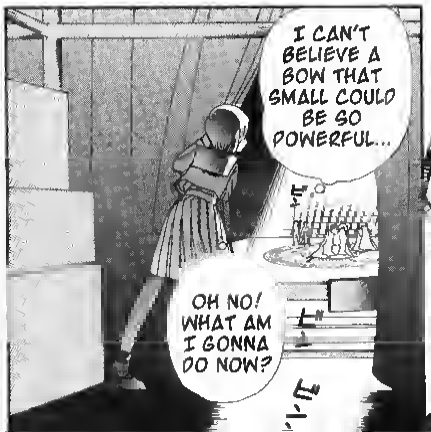
WHEW!
USE THIS ONE, MUTSURA.
YOUR REGULAR BOW WON'T DO.
HMMM.
THAT WEREWOLF IS PROVING TO BE QUITE A NUISANCE... MOVING DESPITE THE POWER DRAIN FROM THE MAGIC SQUARE.
THAT'S NO ORDINARY ARROW, DAMMIT!! IT'S TOTALLY PLATED WITH SILVER. OR DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT?
WHY YOU FILTHY, LITTLE LAP DOG. HOW DARE YOU SLAP DOWN MY ARROW!!
SNAP
BE GONE.
AKIRA!!

ALL RIGHT, IT'S GO TIME--
TAKE THAT!

WWAAHHHHH!! IT BURNS!!
AAHH!! AKIRA!!
THAT ARROW GRAZED HIM!!

HEH.
ALL RIGHT, ALREADY.

RRRGGHHH
MY EARS!!
WHAT'S WITH THAT HORRIBLE SOUND?


I CAN'T BELIEVE A BOW THAT SMALL COULD BE SO POWERFUL...
OH NO! WHAT AM I GONNA DO NOW?

STOP MOVING AROUND, MOTION SHEECH!
HOW DO YOU LIKE THEM APPLES?
HEH, HEH, CHECK THAT OUT THOSE STUPID THINGS ARE RESPONDING TO A LITTLE ITTY BITTY PLUCK.
USE THESE ARROWS AS WELL

A "POWER WORD" ARROW!
IT CAN'T BE!!
CRAP
THOSE ARROWS ARE IMBUED WITH CERTAIN WORDS, "POWER WORDS" WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF MANIPULATING THOSE OF THE "LUNAR RACE!!"
ガ〜ん
MUTSURA, LET'S HEAD DOWNSTAIRS AND GET CLOSER
YOU WANT A FRONT ROW VIEW OF THEM MONSTERS OR SOMETHING?
!!
うう
BUT HOW? AND WHEN? HOW COULD I HAVE MISSED IT? DOES THIS MEAN THAT AKIRA'S STRENGTH HAS BEEN DRAINED?
OH NO!! AKIRA'S TRANSFORMATION!!

OH NO! WHAT TO DO? I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM SOMEHOW BUT...
...BUT HOW?

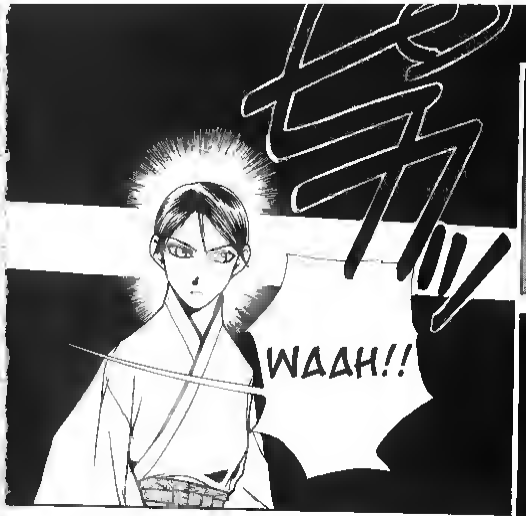
IF THAT'S THE ONLY REASON WE'RE GOING DOWN, WHAT'S THAT BIG DOPEY SMILE FOR, HUH?
OF COURSE NOT I'M MERELY SAYING THAT OUR FOOTING IS PRECARIOUS, AT THE VERY LEAST, UP HERE
CAN YOU MOVE?
IF WE DIE HERE IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
I'M SO SORRY GUYS..

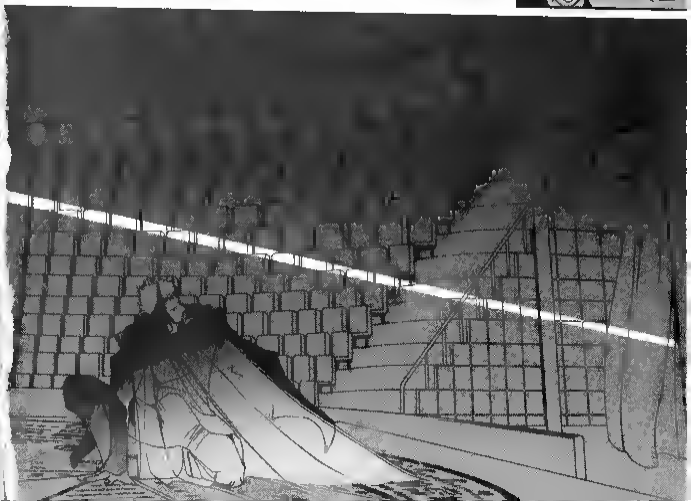
DAMN IT!! TRY USING THAT BRAIN OF YOURS!!
URM, URM, CRAP! ISN'T THERE ANYTHING I CAN USE HERE? LET'S SEE...
OOH!! A FLASH LIGHT!!

ヒュン
ヒュン
OH NO, OH NO! I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING!
DAMN IT!! WOULD YOU USE YOUR OWN DAMN HEAD FOR ONCE!!
TOK
ひゅう

FILTHY, WRETCHED BEASTS!!
DON
DON
DON
DAMMIT!!
GRRRRR
AKIRA, STOP THAT!!
OH NO!
AKIRA! HE'S TRYING TO SHIELD THE OTHER TWO WITH HIS BODY!
DON
DON
FOUL DEMONS!!

WHAT THE HELL IS UP WITH THIS LIGHT?!


WAAH!!

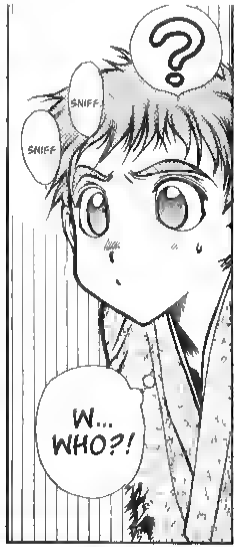


.....
カタ
WHO'S THERE?

BE GONE!!
BE GONE!!
BE GONE!!

HAH!!

HEY, YOU!! WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM, HUH? WHAT DID WE EVER DO TO YOU?
IF YOU ASK ME, YOU'RE THE BAD GUYS IN THIS WHOLE SETUP!!


?
SNIFF
SNIFF
W... WHO?!

THINK ABOUT ALL THE HUMANS YOU'VE KILLED!! FEEL THEIR ANGER NOW!! RIGHT, HOKUTO?!
STOP ACTING LIKE YOU'RE THE VICTIMS HERE!!

BASA
HOW DARE YOU?! YOU STUPID, MANGY DOG!!
11

THAT VOICE?!
NNOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!
ガタン
ぬっ
SO YOU WANT TO BE MY TARGET PRACTICE, HUH?! THEN SHOW YOUSELF!!
-STO-!!
ヒュン

IF YOU HURT MY FRIENDS, I SWEAR I'LL CURSE YOU UNTIL THE DAY YOU AND YOUR WHOLE DAMN BLOODLINE DISAPPEARS!!
I MEAN IT WHEN I SAY I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!!
ポカ
AKIRA? NO...
NO NOT AGAIN! ALL THAT HATRED ALL THAT FIGHTING.
...BETWEEN HUMANS AND CREATURES AGAIN.

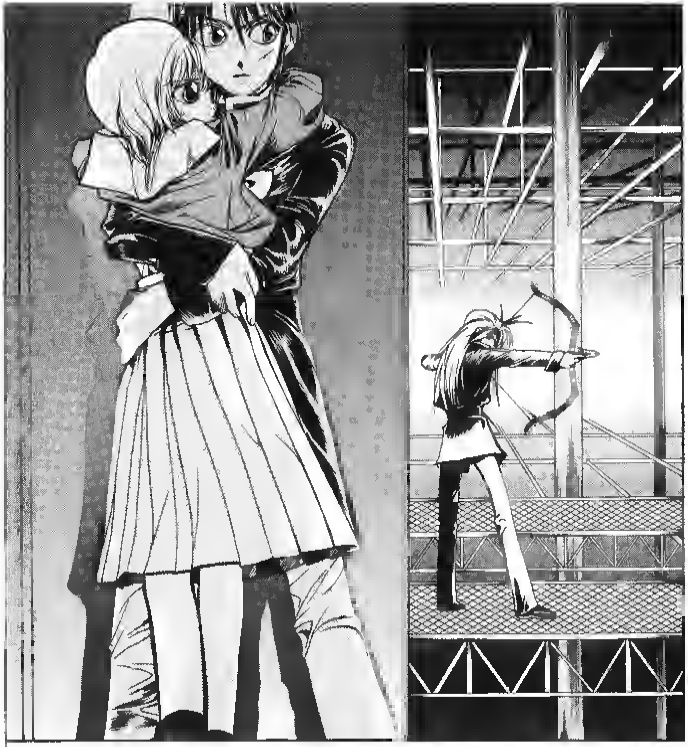
DIE!! NNRGGH.
ACK...MY SHOULDER FEELS SO FRIGGIN' HEAVY ALL A SUDDEN!!

NNNNNGH

HEH. SO THERE YOU ARE!! PREPARE TO--

I'M ONLY HERE TO REPAY A DEBT.
YOU CAME!! THANKS SOOO MUCH, MITSURU!!
TAP
DAMMIT!! SO THERE'S FOUR OF YOU? I THOUGHT THE COPS KILLED ONE OF YOU OFF!!
ん
ガタン
IT'S UP TO YOU, MITSURU
HE'S A KOUDOKUI, MITSURU. A TOTALLY BAD NEWS BLOODLINE. BE CAREFUL!!
SNIFF SNIFF WHIMPER
KUUU~NN!!
IT'S MITSURU!! I CAN TELL!! IT'S MITSURU AND MARIRU!!
KYAAH!!

M...MITSURU? YOU'RE NOT TRANSFORMING!!!
HAH!!
!!
MUTSURA!! DON'T WASTE ARROWS LIKE THAT!!
CAN
CAN
CAN
I'LL KILL YA!!



Chapter of the Blue Moon: Part III, The End
THOSE FELLAS... THEY REALLY MEAN TO KILL US, YOU KNOW.

MITSURU... YOUR CHEEK...

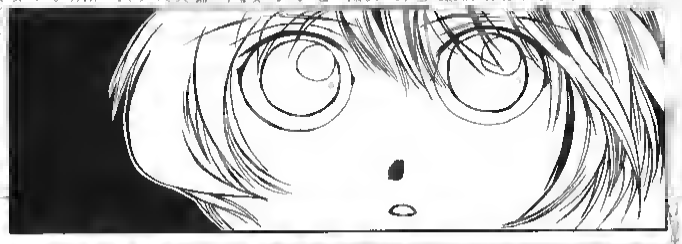
OW.

Chapter of the First Moon

The Demons Battle an Ancient Enemy

Part 4.

ONE OF THE FIRST RULES I LEARNED ABOUT BEING HUMAN WHEN I WAS GROWING UP...
GRRRGHH
...WAS TO ATTACK MY ENEMIES WITHOUT PREJUDICE



YOU THINK THAT THE THINGS THAT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS HAVE BEEN DOING ARE ABOVE US OR SOMETHING?
HOW MANY INNOCENT LIVES HAVE YOU TAKEN?! WASTED?

THAT BASTARD

I FEEL IT!! MUTSURA!! IT'S BEHIND YOU!!

HYII!!

AARGH!
COUGH
COUGH
BE GONE, VILE TENGU!!
GRRRRGHH!
DAMMIT.
COUGH
HACK
BASAH
ACK!
DIE, YOU DAMN MONSTER!!
MUTSUKA NO!!

THAT'S NONE OF MY CONCERN!!
AHH...
HOKUTO!!
HEH, SORRY, THAT DOESN'T WORK ON ME
I- IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS EITHER

ゆう
YOU'LL PAY FOR WHAT YOU DID...
WWAAHHH!!
GAHH! I FEEL LIKE MY HEAD IS GOING TO EXPLODE!!
GWWRRWWWR!!
ビン
ビン
ビン
!!

M...
MITSURU?

!!

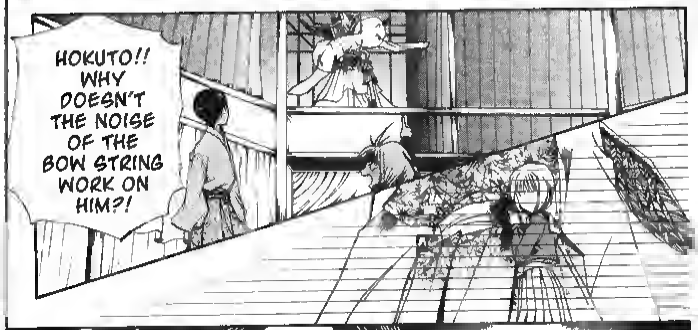
IS IT THAT SOUND? ARE YOU HURT? MITSURU?
MITSURU!! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? MITSURU!!

!!

WHOA!!

THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON...

HOLY COW!! TH-THAT'S FRIGGIN' LIGHTNING HE JUST CHUCKED!!
AHHH-. WHAT THE HELL? IS IT THE GOD OF LIGHTNING OR SOMETHING?!


HOKUTO!! WHY DOESN'T THE NOISE OF THE BOW STRING WORK ON HIM?!

SO...THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OF YOU, HUH? LOOKS LIKE A BEAST IN GIRL'S FORM BUT...IT'S TOO DARK TO MAKE OUT HER FACE.
STILL, THOUGH, THAT UNIFORM...
IS IT... COULD IT BE?

キン
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HOLY... HOLY MOTHER OF GOD...
M... MITSURU? WHEN DID YOUR ELECTRICITY ATTACK GET SO POWERFUL?
STOP IT YOU'RE GOING TO KILL THEM!!
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING ANYWHERE
MITSURU!! STOP IT ALREADY!
HOKUTO, GET BACK!!

DON'T CHASE AFTER THEM IT'S WAY TOO DANGEROUS
THE FIRE'S SPREADING. WE NEED TO GET OUT, TOO.

GET OUT OF THE WAY, MISOKA!! WHY THE HELL DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO DEFEND THOSE DAMN HUMANS?!
AND WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE WITH YOUR FREAKIN' COMMANDS ALL THE TIME?!

I DON'T WANT MITSURU TO BE A MURDERER!!
GAH, LET GO!!
RGGHH

MUTSURA!! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! HURRY!!
FIZZLE FIZZLE

MITSURU! THAT'S ENOUGH! STOP IT!!

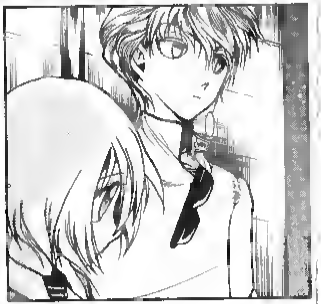
MITSURU.. YOUR ANGER IS MANIFESTED AS THE ANGER OF NATURE. THAT IS, AS A BOLT OF LIGHTNING
BUT FOR THE PEOPLE OF TODAY, SIMPLY WITNESSING SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD DO NOTHING TO REFORM THEM.
IN FACT, IT WOULD PROBABLY ONLY SERVE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR RESOLVE TO KILL US.
WE'RE DONE HERE, MUTSURU THESE FREAKS THAT WE'RE FACING AREN'T ORDINARY CREATURES
LET'S CUT OUR LOSSES!
D DAMMIT
WE HAVE WITNESSED YOUR GREAT STRENGTHS, SIRS.
THEY ARE ANCIENT GODS FORGOTTEN BY TIME
MISOKA!!
MISOKA!
OH NO!! IT HIT HIM!
BECAUSE I'M HALF HUMAN AS WELL
HAARUUH

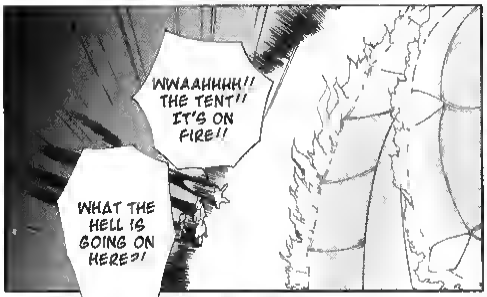
FOR WE ARE THE "VENUSIANS OF THE EASTERN SKY," FROM THE "MORNING STAR" WHICH SIGNALS THE BREAK OF DAY. WE ARE "DAWN'S VENUS."
DAMMIT!
FOR CENTURIES PAST, IT HAS BEEN OUR DUTY TO EXTINGUISH THE LIGHT OF THE MOON THAT IS OUR REASON FOR BEING

BUT THE WORLD OF TODAY HAS NO NEED FOR THAT DARKNESS WHERE YOUR KIND TAKES REFUGE!
ON BEHALF OF MY ANCESTORS, AND ON THE BLOODLINE OF THE HOUSE OF KOUOOKUI, I SHALL BRING AN END TO YOUR RACE. KEEP THAT IN MIND THE NEXT TIME WE MEET. FOR THE NEXT TIME WE MEET WILL BE THE LAST TIME YOU BREATHE!!

YEAH
IT BURNED DOWN, DIDN'T IT?

BACK IN THE DAY, STREET PERFORMERS... WELL, THEY WERE A BONDING GROUND FOR ME OF THE LUNAR FACE AND ALL OF HUMAN KIND.




WWAAHHHH!! THE TENT!! IT'S ON FIRE!!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!

SIRENS?
UGH, EGGH MAN, WHAT THE HELL IS THAT STINK?

THOSE CREATURES WERE THE ONES THAT CAUSED THE FIRE!!
HOLY COW
NOW, YOU'RE COMING DOWN TO THE STATION TO ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS
I'M SORRY, SIR. WE'VE FAILED.

NOT US!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE A PLACE THAT USED TO BE A VENUE OF FRIENDSHIP FOR THE...
...LUNAR RACE AND HUMANS COULD SO EASILY BECOME A BATTLEFIELD.

OH NO, DON'T BE MAD AT ME!!
HEY, ALREADY. HANDS OFF.
WAAH!! SORRY!!

OOHH, WHEW! IT'S JUST YOU, BATTY.
HEY...

I...
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT.

THAT WAS A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.

HMM? OH...HE'S NOT...?

WAAHH!!

SHEESH, MISOKA, WAY TO GO TO DAMPEN THE MOOD
SOMETHING'S COMING THIS WAY?

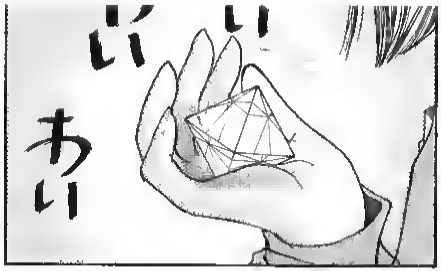
NOW THIS IS QUITE AN ODD TURN OF EVENTS.
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU? HMM?

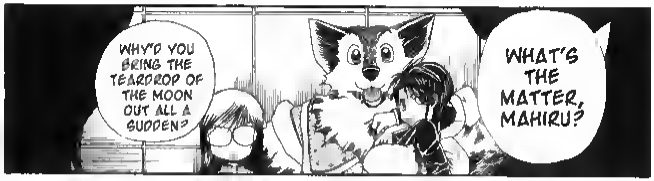
HMMMM... AND WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

KYAAA!! KYAAHHH!!
MITSURU!! HELP!! SOMETHING BLACK AND YUCKY!!

I WUV YOU, MITSURU!!
OWWW!
AWWW, THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SHY!!
WAAHH!! GET OFF ME, YOU STUPID DOG!!
SERIOUSLY, I MEAN IT!! QUIT IT!!
OKAY, ENOUGH STOP WITH THE BITING
AKIRA!! SIT
SO, MITSURU, LOOKS LIKE YOU SAVED THE DAY AND THE LOT OF US. HUH?
MUCHO THANKS
I SWEAR
I JUST WELL. I JUST THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE AN ARROW SO, WELL. SO. I FREAKED OUT A BIT. OKAY?
AND WHAT KIND OF FACE AM I SUPPOSED TO MAKE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
I-IT WAS NOTHING. REALLY I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
わん
ARRRFF!!
I TOTALLY FORGOT!! YOU CAME TO SAVE US, MITSURU!! THANK YOU SOOOO MUCH!!
AHH!
カ!!

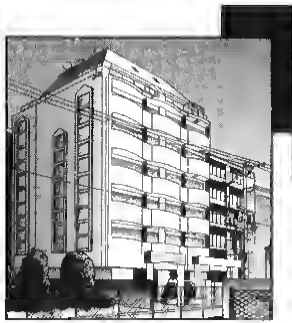
I WONDER IF IF I...
IF I CAN BE THAT BRIDGE... BETWEEN THE LUNAR RACE AND HUMANS?
OH YOU BETCHA YOU COULD ABSOLUTELY! ESPECIALLY IF IT WAS A BRIDGE JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME CUTIE
UMMM, UH YUCK
ONLY GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN HUMANS AND OUR PEOPLE GET TOGETHER, YOU KNOW?
NOZOMU!!
OH MY GOSH, SO NOT WHAT I MEANT!!




WHY'D YOU BRING THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON OUT ALL A SUDDEN?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MAHIRU?

A LONG TIME AGO.. EVERYONE LIVED HARMONIOUSLY, DIDN'T THEY? JUST LIKE THIS
SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER RESPECTING ONE ANOTHER
AND NOW.. WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO EXACTLY HOW IT WAS BUT.. THERE MUST BE A WAY. ANOTHER WAY OUT THERE.. DON'T YOU THINK?

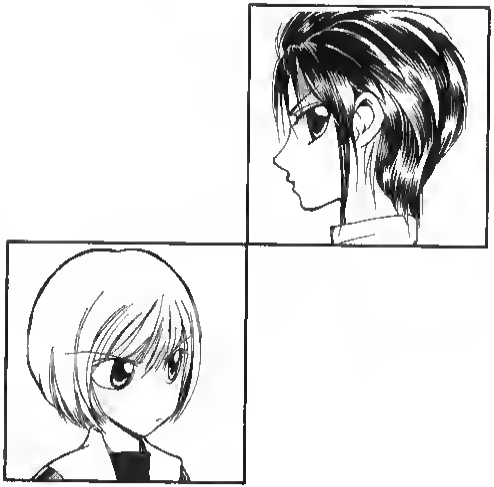
DAMMIT, KEIKO SAY SOMETHING IT'S ME, HOKUTO
PLEASE, DON'T HANG UP I NEED YOU TO HEAR ME OUT
HOW MUCH MORE DO YOU WANT ME TO SUFFER BEFORE YOU'RE HAPPY, HOKUTO...
WHAT?!
WE WEREN'T ABLE TO KILL THE CREATURES THEY MANAGED TO GET AWAY SOMEHOW THEY SEEMED TO BE PRETTY CONTENT WITH THEIR REVENGE, BUT THERE'S A NEW TWIST AFOOT
THEY INFURIATED THE CREATURES?
WE BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THEM ATTENDS YOUR SCHOOL SO BE CAREFUL
Chapter of the First Moon. Part 4. The End



OKAY, MY HAIR GOT ALL FLUFFY

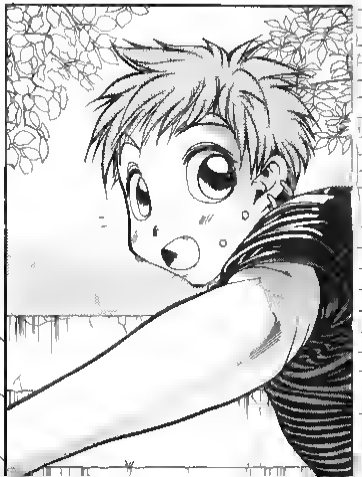
Chapter of the Crescent Moon

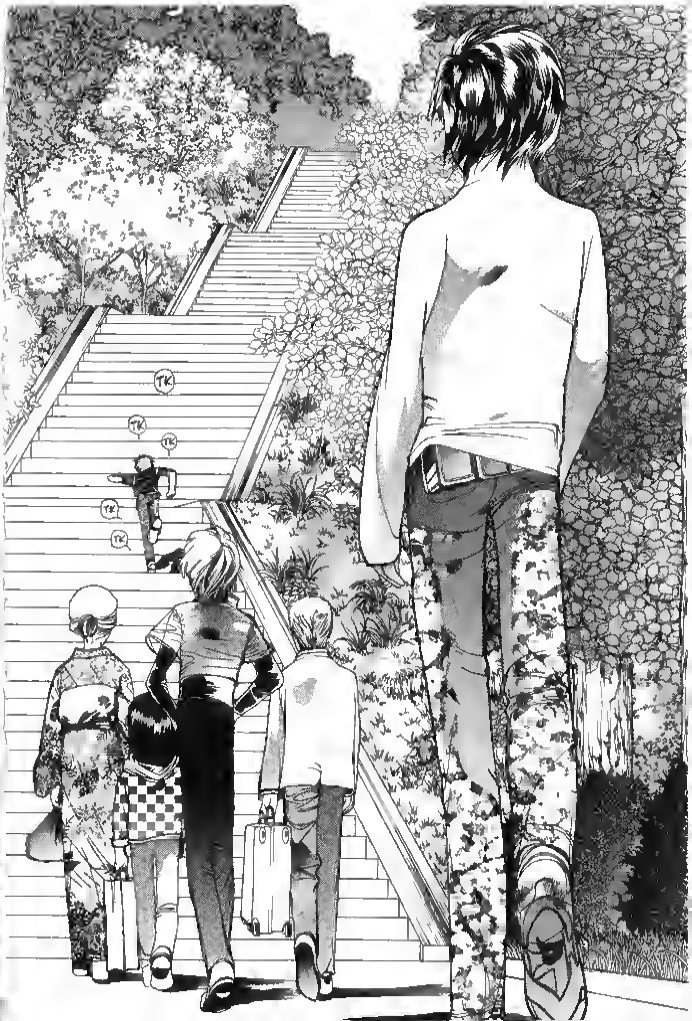
An Ancient Capital Where Thoughts are Stirred and Shaken Part 1.



WHAT? DID YOU CALL?!
THIS IS AS FAR AS WE GO.

TWEEEEEET--




TK
TK
TK
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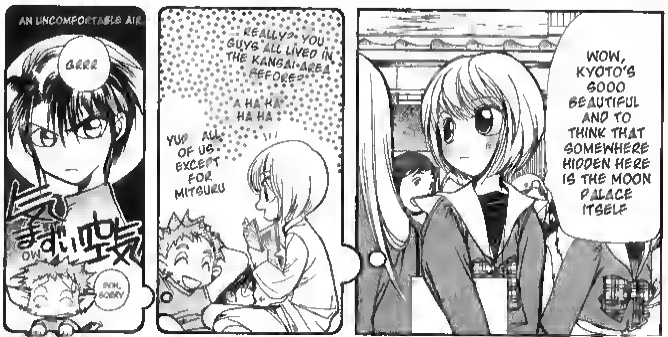
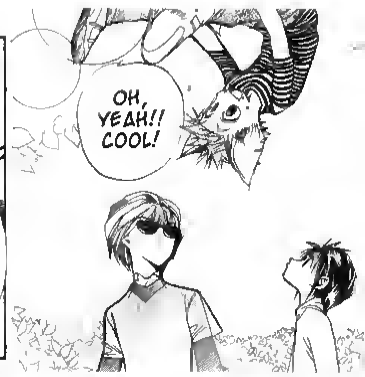
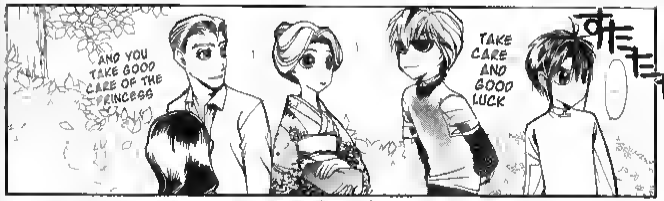
TK

Our Class Trip
WELL, IF YOU DON'T HAVE SOLID PLANS, I'VE GOT A SUPER NEAT IDEA
OKAY, SOUNDS GOOD
HEY, MAHIRU, DURING TOMORROW'S FREE TIME I WONDERED...
STOP RUNNING!

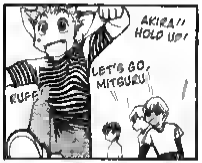

AN UNCOMFORTABLE AIR
GRRR
REALLY?! YOU GUYS ALL LIVED IN THE KANSAI-AREA BEFORE?
A HA HA HA HA...
YUP ALL OF US EXCEPT FOR MITSURU
WOW, KYOTO'S SOOO BEAUTIFUL AND TO THINK THAT SOMEWHERE HIDDEN HERE IS THE MOON PALACE ITSELF

CRAP, I FORGOT WE'RE HERE AS MAHIRU'S BODYGUARDS, AREN'T WE?

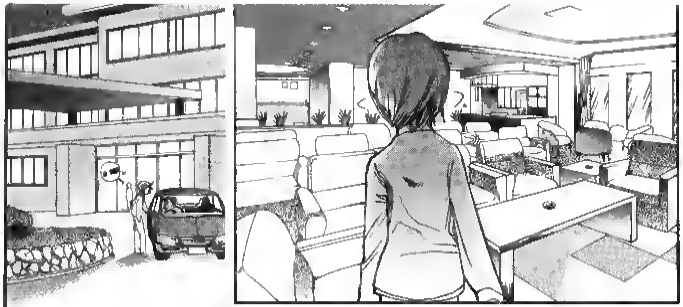

OH, YEAH!! COOL!


AND YOU TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE PRINCESS
TAKE CARE AND GOOD LUCK

VVVREEEE!!!
HURRY UP!!
COME ON!!
QUICK!!


AKIRA!! HOLD UP!
LET'S GO, MITSURU
RUFF

MITSURU!!



HMM?
THAT PERSON OUT THERE...BY THAT CAR...IT SURE LOOKS LIKE HIMURA BUT...

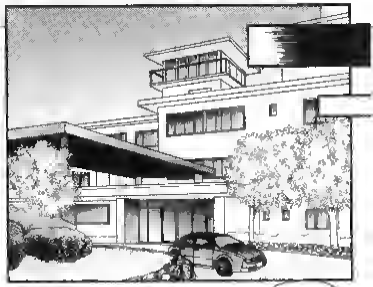
I CAN'T MAKE OUT THE FACE TOO WELL BUT...IT LOOKS LIKE A MAN INSIDE THAT CAR.
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT? HMMM. I CAN'T TELL FROM HERE... I WONDER IF THIS IS A BAD TIME TO CATCH HER ATTENTION...

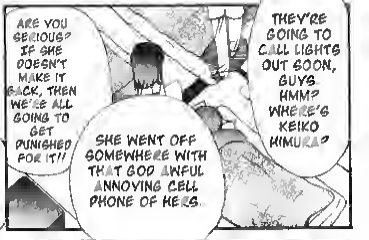
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D COME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO HARASS ME!

AFTER ALL, IT'S EASY TO GET FROM HERE TO MY GRANDMOTHER'S
ACTUALLY, I WISH MITSUGURU WERE HERE RIGHT NOW
HE DIDN'T SEEM TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT THEN, BUT I WONDER IF HE'S OKAY NOW?

R-REALLY?! THAT ULTRA-POPULAR CLIQUE?! OH MY GOSH!!
MAMIRU--GUESS WHAT!! ABOUT TOMORROW'S FREE TIME, THING? WELL, WE GET TO SPEND IT WITH SHIGEMATSU'S GROUP!

SHHHH I'LL GO LOOK FOR HER, OKAY?
NOW THEN, I WONDER WHERE SHE COULD BE?




ARE YOU SERIOUS? IF SHE DOESN'T MAKE IT BACK, THEN WE'RE ALL GOING TO GET PUNISHED FOR IT!!
SHE WENT OFF SOMEWHERE WITH THAT GOD AWFUL ANNOYING CELL PHONE OF HERS.
THEY'RE GOING TO CALL LIGHTS OUT SOON, GUYS. HMM? WHERE'S KEIKO HIMURA?

NO, I'M NOT. AND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME
!!
THEN I SUGGEST YOU TAKE A LOOK AT IT WITH YOUR OWN EYES
WH--?!
ARE YOU KIDDING!
OH MY GOSH!!
IS IT COME KIND OF LOVERS' QUARREL? OOHHH, WHAT AMI SAYING? I'M SOOO CONFUSED!
WAIT! WHY AREN'T THEY FIGHTING?
!

THANKS SO MUCH FOR ASKING!!
KEIKO, HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT YET WHO THE CONTACT FOR THOSE CREATURES IS?
I CAME HERE TO MEET WITH ONE OF THE RENOWNED PSYCHICS OF THIS AREA TO PLOT OUR NEXT COURSE OF ACTION.
AND YOU'RE COMING WITH ME, AS WELL DON'T WORRY, I'VE ALREADY HANDLED YOUR SCHOOL

UMM, WELL, NO, I HAVEN'T
HMMPH YOU WERE PROBABLY JUST IMAGINING THINGS ANYWAY.

!!
OH, OH!
THAT REALLY DOESN'T LOOK GOOD TO ME!

WHAT?! LET GO!!

THERE'LL BE NO MORE TALKS OF CONTINUING THE BLOODLINE, OR PRESERVATION OF POWERS AND ABILITIES
THEN THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR A MARRIAGE BETWEEN YOU AND ME
IF WE CAN BE RID OF THOSE CREATURES DURING MY TIME
BUT NO WAY CAN I WALK UP TO HER NOW...
SIGH I BETTER GO APOLOGIZE TO EVERYONE
—THEN I SUGGEST YOU COOPERATE NOW RATHER THAN LATER
Vuhhhh...
IN OTHER WORDS. IF YOU'RE AS ADVERSE TO OUR ENGAGEMENT AS MUCH AS YOU LEAD ME TO BELIEVE—
GRRRR----!! OH, WOE ON YOUTH AND COURTSHIP!
WALKING AROUND WITH JUST GIRLS IS SOOOO AMAZINGLY PATHETIC!!
YOU CAN BE SUCH A WEENIE

I SEE OBORO AND KATSURA ARE AT THE MOON PALACE GIVING THEIR INTERIM REPORTS ALONG WITH MISOKA, HMM?

WITH ALL THE GIRLS IN THE CLASS IMMEDIATELY FLOCKING TO HIM
NOW THAT WE'VE GOT OUR INTRODUCTIONS OUT OF THE WAY, HOW WOULD YOU LADIES LIKE TO DO SOME SIGHTSEEING WITH US?
HMM, NOZOMU'S SUCH A SMOOTHIE, SOME
キャ
キャ

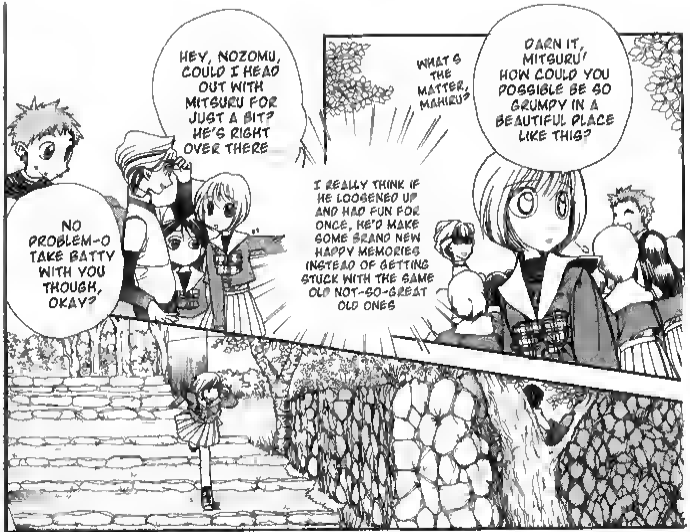
HAS ANYONE EVER SAID YOU LOOK LIKE KATEKINE FROM 'STOP'?
DON'T THOSE PIERCINGS HURT AT ALL, AKIRA?
SO THE WHOLE GANG'S HERE
"REALLY?" YOU'RE HALF ENGLISH?
HOW OLD ARE YOU? WHAT KIND OF GIRLS ARE YOUR FAVORITES?

OH, I FEEL SOMEONE WATCHING ME...
THAT REMINDS ME...I WONDER IF MITSURU'S...

I WONDER WHERE SHE COULD HAVE WANDERED OFF TO, ALL BY HERSELF
DO I LOOK LIKE I CARE?
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT ALL THOSE BOYS REALLY WANTED WAS JUST A CHANCE TO GET CLOSE TO KEIKO KIMURA

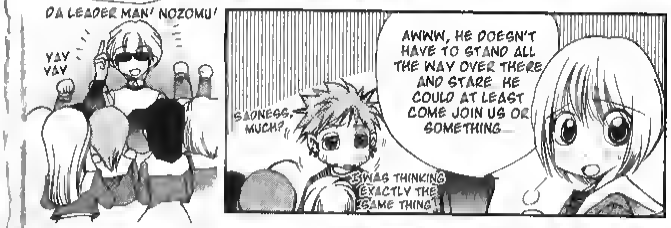
EH?!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?

OH MY, THEY'RE SO TALL!
ARE THEY MODELS?
THEY'RE FRIENDS OF SHIRAISHI'S I HEARD...
DOH! EVERYONE'S STARING AT ME. I'M TOTALLY STANDING OUT NOW!
WOW WEE! WHO WOULD HAVE THUNK IT, SHIRAISHI?
Panda
OMIGOSH, MAHIRU!! WHO ARE THESE FINE SPECIMENS?

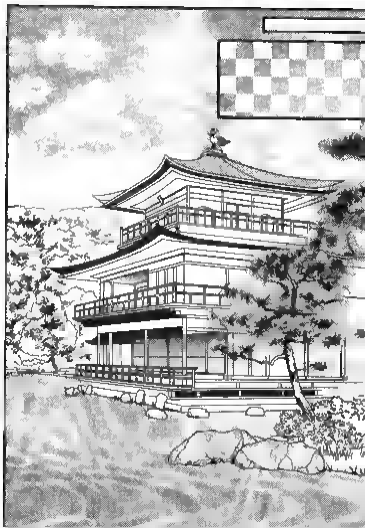

HEY, NOZOMU, COULD I HEAD OUT WITH MITSURU FOR JUST A BIT? HE'S RIGHT OVER THERE
NO PROBLEM-O TAKE BATTY WITH YOU THOUGH, OKAY?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MAHIRU?
DARN IT, MITSURU! HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLE BE SO GRUMPY IN A BEAUTIFUL PLACE LIKE THIS?
I REALLY THINK IF HE LOOSENED UP AND HAD FUN FOR ONCE, HE'D MAKE SOME BRAND NEW HAPPY MEMORIES INSTEAD OF GETTING STUCK WITH THE SAME OLD NOT-SO-GREAT OLD ONES

THERE'S SOMEWHERE I'D REALLY, REALLY LIKE YOU TO TAKE ME..
HEY!! MITSURU!! HEEEEYYYY!!

ALL RIGHT THEN LET'S HEAD OVER TO TEMPLE OF THE GOLDEN PAVILION!
RIGHT THERE!!
WOW, I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT LOOK IN A WHILE
GEEE


DA LEADER MAN! NOZOMU!
YAY YAY
AWWW, HE DOESN'T HAVE TO STAND ALL THE WAY OVER THERE AND STARE. HE COULD AT LEAST COME JOIN US OR SOMETHING
SADNESS, MUCH?..
I WAS THINKING EXACTLY THE SAME THING!

HURRY UP, DUCKIE.
YAY YAY
YAY YAY
I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU DON'T WORRY



JUST WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK I AM LATELY? YOUR PRIVATE HELICOPTER OR SOMETHING?
NOW HOLD ON A DAMN SECOND

WELL, HMMM, BUT THEN LATELY IT'S LIKE, WELL IT'S LIKE— YOU HOLD ME REAL TIGHT AND
AND I GUESS I'M NOT AS AFRAID ANY-MORE!!
AND SOMEHOW THAT'S MY FAULT?

UH HUH?
WELL, BEFORE YOU WERE LIKE, SOOOO RUDE AND SO ROUGH- NOT TO MENTION THE FACT YOU'D FLY WAY TOO HIGH-AND I REALLY HATED FLYING WITH YOU, YOU KNOW? BUT--
?

OVER THERE.

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
A GRAVEYARD?
OH MY GOSH... IT'S COMPLETELY OVERGROWN
LET'S SEE...IT SHOULD BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE...
The Grave of the Sakurai Family
THAT'S HINAKO SAKURAI SHE WAS MY GRANDMOTHER
OH YEAH? WELL, SO WHAT?!

TEE HEE
ACTUALLY... YES. I'M NOT SUCH A FRAIDY CAT ANYMORE
THIS COMING FROM THE GIRL WHO WAS SCARED WITLESS JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO?
ずん
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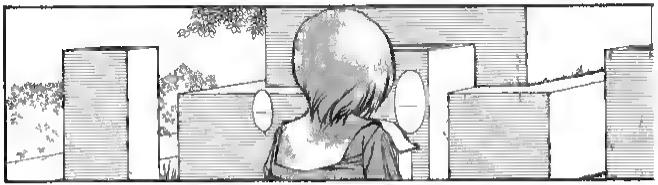
WHAT THE HELL ARE WE DOING HERE ANYWAY...?
WHAT THE HELL?

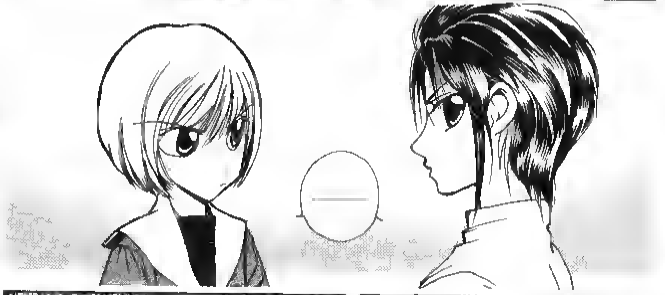
GRANDMOTHER?
YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER HAS BUDDIED UP WITH SOME DEMONS!

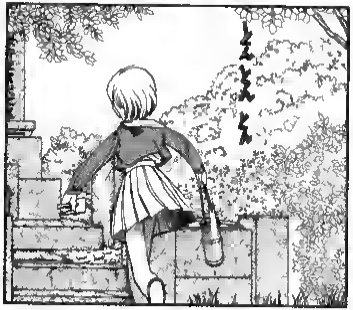


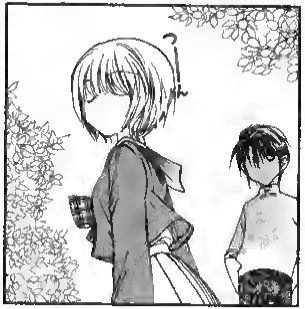
TO BE QUITE HONEST, IT WAS VERY LONELY.
GROWING UP I WAS NEVER ABLE TO TALK ABOUT MY POWERS FOR FEAR OF FREAKING PEOPLE OUT. I HAD TO KEEP ALL THOSE WEIRD DREAMS I HAD SECRET

SHE'D BE FROM THE PRINCESS' BLOODLINE TOO, WOULDN'T SHE IF SHE WERE STILL ALIVE, THAT IS
LET ME REITERATE. SO WHAT?!

REMEMBER THAT SONG? WELL, I LEARNED IT FROM HER, YOU SEE
PRINCESS, PRINCESS! WHY DO YOU CRY?
SECOND, IN THE SHADOW OF THE DOUBLE SCREEN







HE'S MY FRIEND.
--THERE WE GO! GRANOMA, THIS IS MITSURU.

I WAS ALWAYS SO ANXIOUS ABOUT EVERYTHING
ESPECIALLY ABOUT MOM AND DAD. BOTH OF THEM PASSED AWAY SO EARLY ON IN MY LIFE

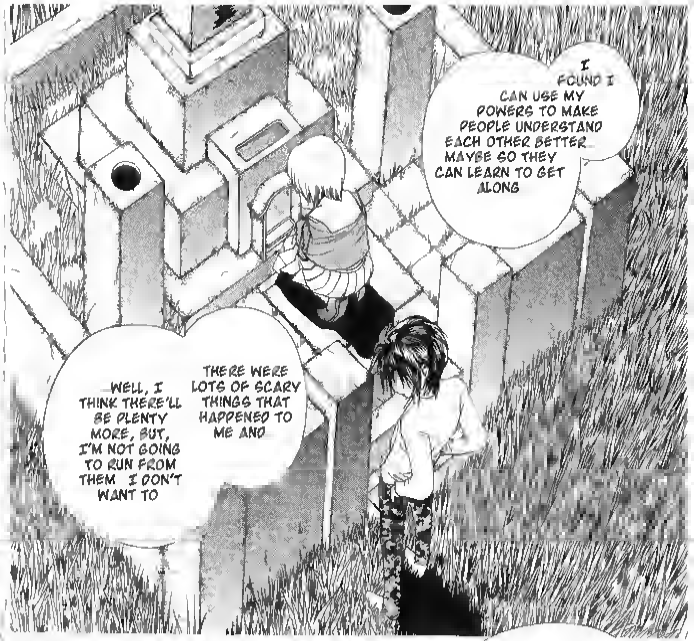
SIGH OH, BY THE WAY, GRANOMA, GUESS WHAT?
I JUST DISCOVERED SOMETHING I CAN DO ALL ON MY OWN

ぱっ
POH

A..U..T!! GEEZ. GET OVER HERE!!
DRAG! DRAG DRA------G

!! MITSURU
BUT!!
OH OH
満

EHEM I GUESS DEEP DOWN, I REALLY WANTED YOU TO HEAR ALL OF THAT, MITSURU
...
ナニ?


I FOUND I CAN USE MY POWERS TO MAKE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER BETTER... MAYBE SO THEY CAN LEARN TO GET ALONG
THERE WERE LOTS OF SCARY THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO ME AND...
WELL, I THINK THERE'LL BE PLENTY MORE, BUT, I'M NOT GOING TO RUN FROM THEM. I DON'T WANT TO

SO PLEASE...THOSE OF YOU WHO CAME BEFORE ME AND YOU, GRANDMA... PLEASE ASK THEM TO PROTECT AND WATCH OVER ME.
.....

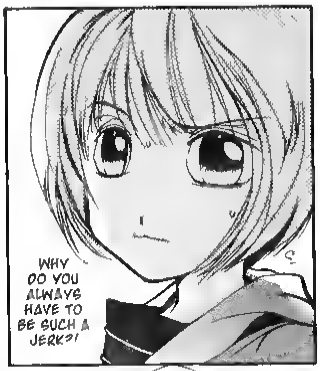
WILL YOU HELP ME?
YEAH RIGHT. WHATEVER, LOOOOSER.

BECAUSE THE PAST IS THE PAST. AND BECAUSE THE ONLY TIME I EVER REALLY SEE SAD TIMES ANYMORE ARE IN MY DREAMS.
YEP
YOU SURE YOU MEANT ALL THAT STUFF YOU SAID?
BECAUSE THAT WAS THEN. BUT THIS IS NOW
SO YES, I MEANT EVERYTHING

YOU FINALLY STOPPED RUNNING!

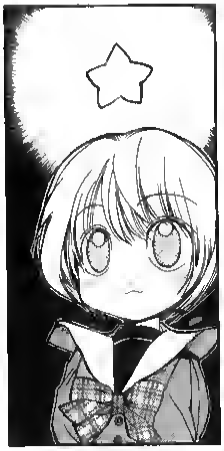
!!

W WHAT?
SHALL WE GO BACK THEN, MITSURU?


WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SUCH A JERK?!

LOOK WHO'S TALKING.

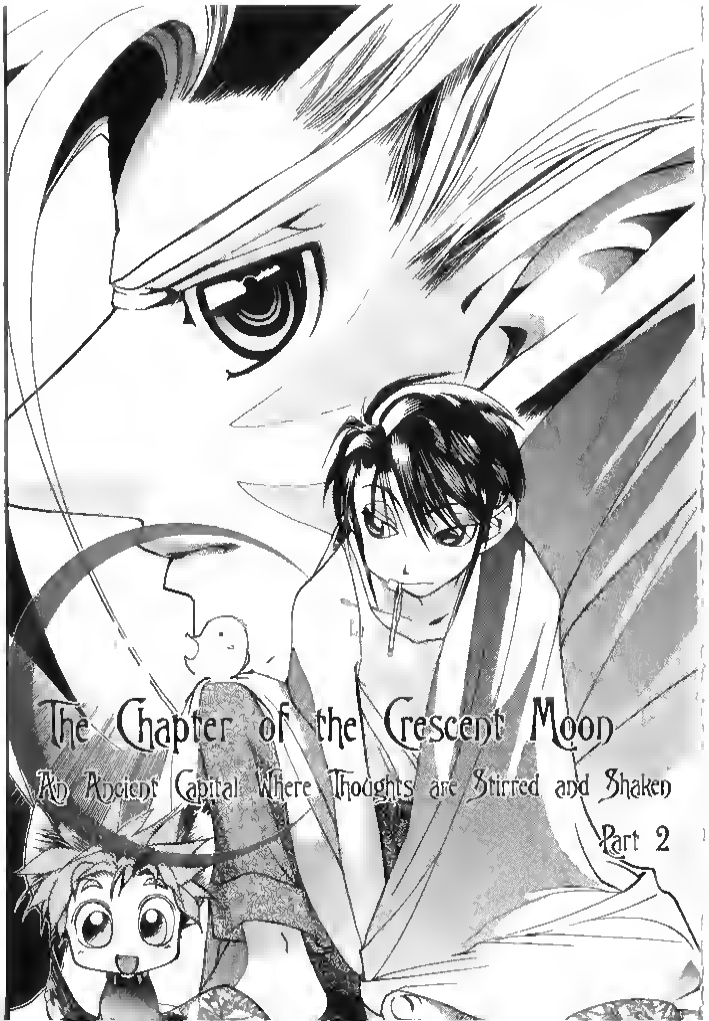
AND WHAT'S UP WITH THAT WEIRD LOOK?



WAIT A MINUTE SHOCKER WAS THAT A SMILE?
!!
OH DARN, IT'S ALREADY GONE

I WONDER IF SHE...
...HAS ANY CLUE ABOUT MY EXISTENCE?

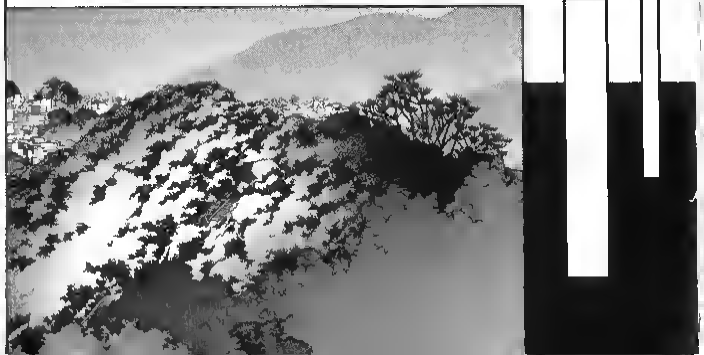
.....!!
SO THAT'S THE "DESCENDANT OF THE PRINCESS," HUH?
HMMM...

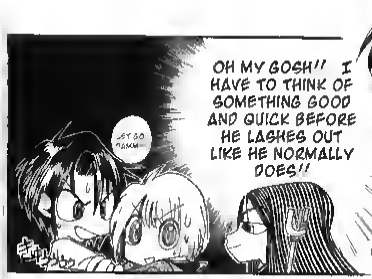

The Chapter of the Crescent Moon
An Ancient Capital Where Thoughts are Stirred and Shaken
Part 2

WHAT? AWW, COME WITH US!! PLEASE?
ALL RIGHT THEN, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
DUCKIE!! WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN, HMMM?
GUYS?
あの
あ
HMMM?
I SEE
UH, HUH
AAHHH!!
STOP IT, DON'T!! HE'S GOING TO BLOW UP!!
AAHHH!!
YAWN
HAAAUUUHHH
LET'S SEE I WONDER WHERE NOZOMU AND THE OTHERS ARE NOW
MORNING, MR EATS
COME ON, MITSURU. LET'S GET A MOVE ON AND GO THERE NOW.
YOU'RE JUST ASKING FOR ME TO LET GO OF YOU, AREN'T YOU, DORK
IF WE'RE GOING TO PICK UP SOME GIFTS, I THINK WE REALLY SHOULD GO TO ARASHIYAMA.
JUST KIDDING, SILLY, JUST KIDDING

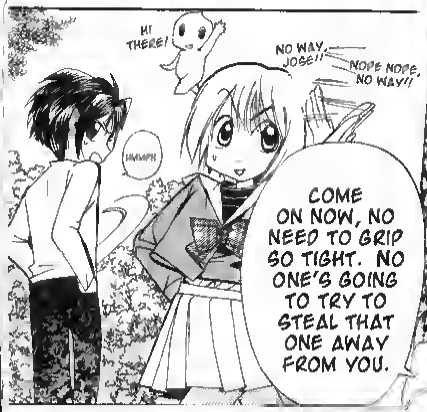
HEY, NO FAIR WITH HOGGING THEM ALL TO YOURSELF!!
THESE TWO ARE TOTAL HAMS!
NO, NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT THEY'RE ALL JUST MY FRIENDS.
ALL OF THEM

HMMPH

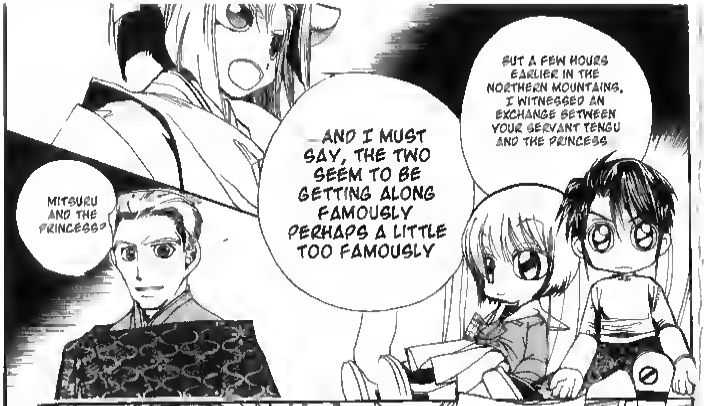



OH MY GOSH!! I HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING GOOD AND QUICK BEFORE HE LASHES OUT LIKE HE NORMALLY DOES!!
...ET GO DAMM...

I SAID, LET GO, DAMMIT!!
HEE HEE...
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, WE GET IT. SO THAT'S YOUR TRUE LOVE, HMMM?

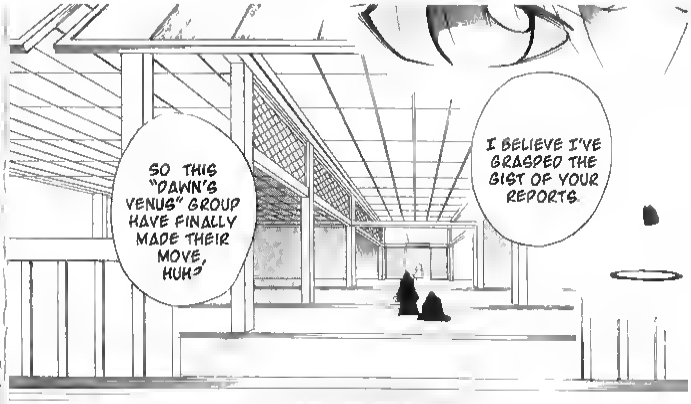

HI THERE!
NO WAY, JOSE!!
NOPE NOPE, NO WAY!!
HMMPH
COME ON NOW, NO NEED TO GRIP SO TIGHT. NO ONE'S GOING TO TRY TO STEAL THAT ONE AWAY FROM YOU.

URM...
THIS GUY, WELL, HE...HE ISN'T WHAT YOU THINK HE IS HE'S A--


MITSURU AND THE PRINCESS?
AND I MUST SAY, THE TWO SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG FAMOUSLY PERHAPS A LITTLE TOO FAMOUSLY
BUT A FEW HOURS EARLIER IN THE NORTHERN MOUNTAINS, I WITNESSED AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN YOUR SERVANT TENGU AND THE PRINCESS

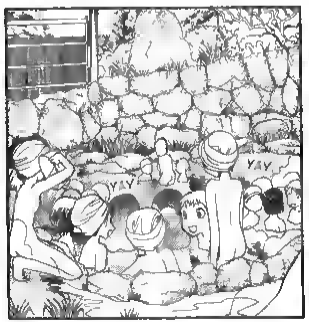
UEGGH!!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY, UNCLE? TELL ME!!

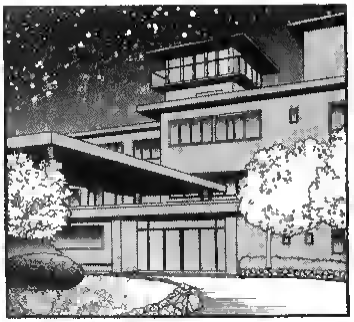
SILENCE!! HOW DARE YOU FORGET YOUR PLACE! CALL ME, "YOUR LORD" AND NOTHING ELSE!! BESIDES.
ERGGHHHH
COUGH! COUGH! HACK!
SHIROGANE YOU'VE GOTTEN WORSE HAVEN'T YOU? YOU'VE GOT TO STOP VENTURING OUT IN YOUR CONDITION


I BELIEVE I'VE GRASPED THE GIST OF YOUR REPORTS.
SO THIS "DAWN'S VENUS" GROUP HAVE FINALLY MADE THEIR MOVE, HUH?

HMMMH
AND ME ANWHILE THE HUMANS CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR EFFORTS AGAINST US. WHAT EXACTLY HAVE YOU BEEN DOING FOR OUR CAUSE, UNCLE?
ANYTHING? ANYTHING AT ALL?!
CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU BELIEVE, WE ARE DOING OUR BEST, SIRE.
CORRECT MY LORD

NOTHING, DESPITE THE FACT THAT BY COLLECTING ALL THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON, MY ILLNESS--AND MY MOM'S TOO--WILL BE CURED!!
YOU'VE PUT NOTHING INTO OUR ATTEMPTS HERE!!
YES, IT IS!!
THAT'S NOT TRUE
I KNOW THAT DEEP DOWN INSIDE YOU'D BE HAPPIER WITH ME DEAD!! THAT YOU'D LOVE TO SEE ME DEAD!!
!!
SHIROGANE.....
...HOW IS SHE..HOW FARES THE EMPRESS?
PANT.
PANT.
ONLY IF WE CAN COLLECT ALL TEARDROPS OF THE MOON, THEN..

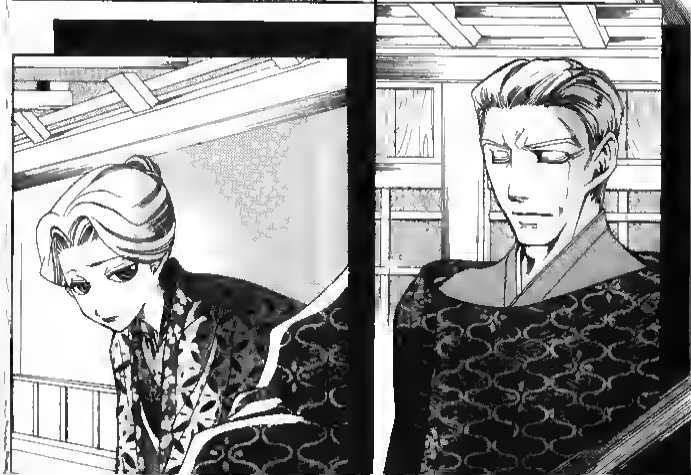

YAY
YAY



I WONDER WHAT THE OTHERS ARE UP TO?
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MOON

HEH HEH HEH
YOU LITTLE VIXEN
WHAT, JUNKO? YOU'RE ACTING TOTALLY BIZARRE.
DUCKIE!! DID YOU HAVE FUN TODAY? HMMM? WELL, DIDJA-DIDJA?
KYAAAH

IF IT'S TRUE YOU'RE DOING WHAT YOU CAN, THEN SHOW ME PROOF OF IT. NOW!!
AND IT'S ALL THEIR FAULT!! OH THOSE WRETCHED HUMANS!!
SHE'LL NO LONGER EVEN MEET WITH ME!!

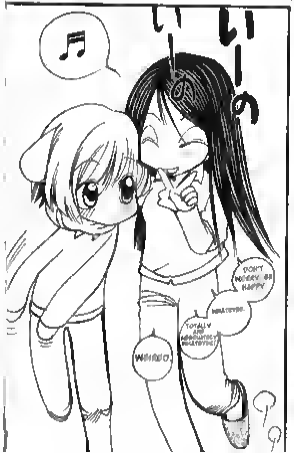


I HEARD THAT HIMURA LEFT REALLY EARLY IN THE MORNING IN SOMEONE'S CAR
YOU'RE SERIOUS? IN A BOY'S CAR?
. . I GUESS IT'S OKAY FOR YOU SINCE YOU ACTUALLY INTRODUCED US TO THEM, YOU KNOW?
IT REALLY KINDA PISSES ME OFF WHEN PEOPLE DO STUFF IN SECRET LIKE THAT STUPID KEIKO HIMURA, BUT..
WHAT'S THAT? KEIKO HIMURA? IN A GUY'S CAR?
WAY TO GO FOR HER, HUH?
I JUST CAN'T TELL THEM WHAT I SAW YESTERDAY.
I...
OH, WELL, I WISH I HADN'T SEEN WHAT I SAW TO BE HONEST
Keiko Himura Bad Mouthing Contest!!

AFTER ALL, YOU KNOW ♡
KYA
KYA
KYA
OOH
OH OKAY I GET IT NOW

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER THAT SORTA REMINDS ME OF MITSURU

I CAN'T TELL THE OTHERS, BUT I ACTUALLY REALLY LIKE HIMURA.

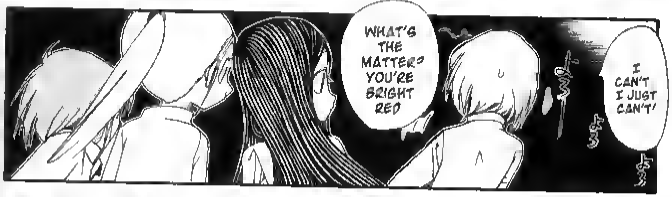

♬
DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY
WHERE'D?

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D RUN AWAY FROM HOME TO START WORKING I WOULD TOO IF THAT WAS THE COMPANY I WAS KEEPING.
W..WHAT?! BUT THAT'S NOT IT!!

SMASHIES ARE LIKE, MEAN AND STUFF!! CUT IT OUT!
YOU DO IT TOO, THEN CASE SOLVED NEXT!!
THAT COULDN'T BE OR COULD IT?
HEY, NO FAIR WITH THE SMASHIES!!
NOZOMU!! STOP IT!!!
WAAHHH WAAAHHHH!!

HMM? OOOOHHH!! MAHIRU!! PERFECT TIMING, GIRLIE!!
AKIRA, NOZOMU... EVEN MITSURU?
YOU WANNA PLAY A GAME OF PING PONG?
KYA KYA KYA----!!
W-WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?

YESTERDAY'S BIG-TIME SCOOP!!
KEIKO CUNSEKNOWNST TO ME) WASN'T A GIRL BUT A WOMAN?!
I ALMOST HAD A TOTALLY GROSS MENTAL IMAGE
BAD!!


WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'RE BRIGHT RED
I CAN'T I JUST CAN'T!

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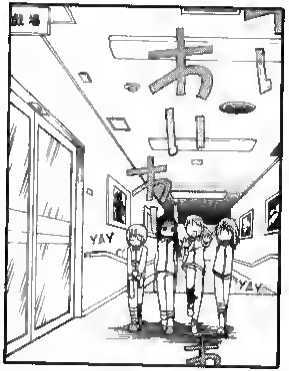
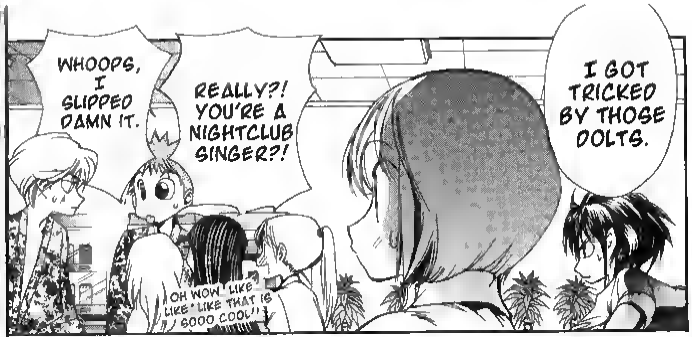

YAY
YAY


WHOOPS, I SLIPPED DAMN IT.
REALLY?! YOU'RE A NIGHTCLUB SINGER?!
I GOT TRICKED BY THOSE DOLTS.
OH WOW! LIKE LIKE LIKE THAT IS SOOO COOL!!

OH HEY, HOW'D IT GO, MISOKA?
OH PLEASE, LIKE YOU AREN'T CURIOUS TO HEAR THEM SING?
SQUEEEAAL!
.....

WHAT A SURPRISE
HMMM

HEY, LADIES CARE TO JOIN US FOR A GAME?
YES, SIR!!

HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?
YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST SAID SOMETHING ABOUT STAYING AT THE SAME INN, YOU KNOW?

Thou swell thou witty
Thou sweet thou gra-
Would'st kiss me
do to me
Hear
IT'S JUST GOING TO BE A CAPPELLA, SO DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH, OKAY?
UH-HUH

OVER THIS WAY, GUYS.
THERE'S A SMALL STAGE OVER THERE, I HEAR.

WHO'S THAT SHORT PERSON?

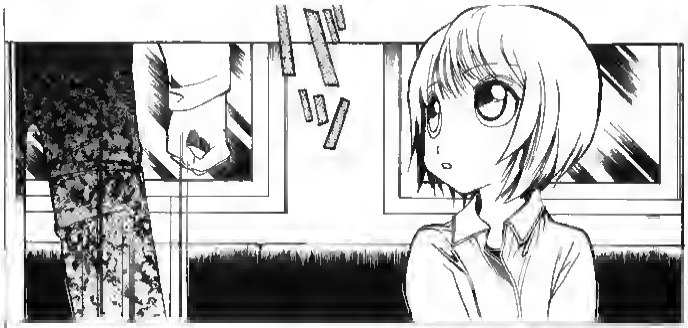
THAT'S RIGHT... AND IT SEEMS THAT I'LL BE HEADED THERE AGAIN MYSELF, TOMORROW.
I SEE...SO OBORO AND KATSURA ARE OVER AT THE MOON PALACE, HUH?

I WONDER IF MISOKA'S OKAY...HE SEEMS SO... SO TIRED TODAY.
GOOD EVENING, MISOKA I HAD NO IDEA YOU'D ALL BE STAYING HERE, TOO
GOOD EVENING, PRINCESS

PER THE REQUEST OF MAHIRU'S FRIENDS.
COME ON, MISOKA COME SING WITH US

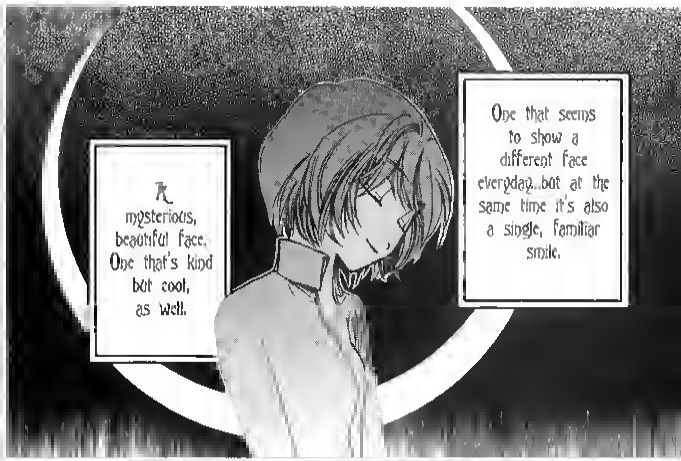
A light which doesn't force the darkness out of every nook and cranny but one that embraces it, too...
Hardly intrusive, but simply there to guide when one seeks for it, looks up for it.

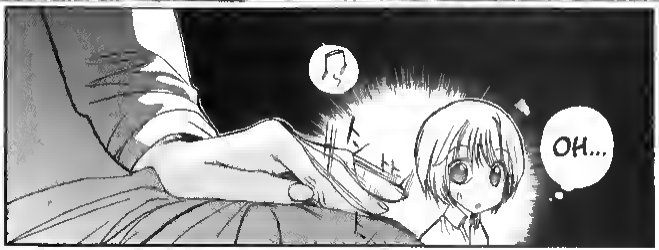
A light that.. while not as bright as that of the sun...is a subtle, soothing presence
Their song was like the light of the moon itself.



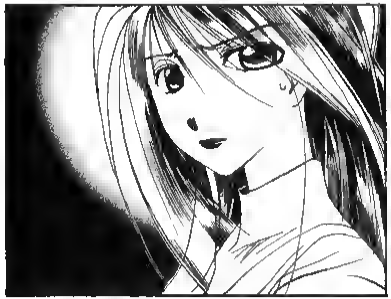
LIAR, I SAW YOU! YOU WERE--
SHUT THE HELL UP!! I SAID, LEAVE ME THE HELL ALONE!!

HEY!
WAIT, MITSURU! DON'T LEAVE!
SHUT UP. JUST LEAVE ME ALONE, OKAY?!
TELL ME, MITSURU.. WHY WON'T YOU SING WITH THE OTHERS?
I HATE SINGING THAT'S WHY.

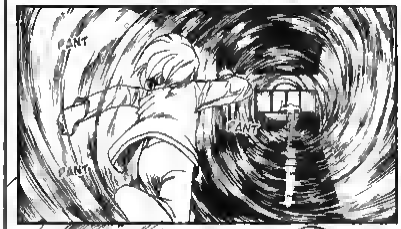

A mysterious, beautiful face. One that's kind but cool, as well.
One that seems to show a different face everyday...but at the same time it's also a single, familiar smile.


OH...

HAH!!

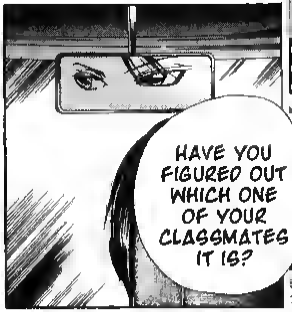


WHAT? I THOUGHT WE'D GONE OVER YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS...

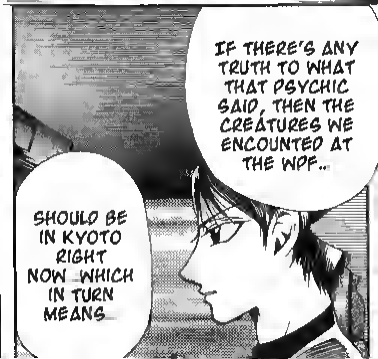

PANT
PANT
PANT

I CALL YOU WIND!!
MITSURU!! WAIT!!

WAIT!! MITSURU!!


HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT WHICH ONE OF YOUR CLASSMATES IT IS?

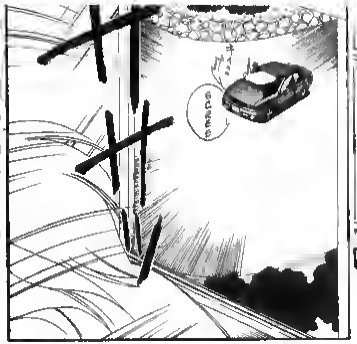
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IN HELL YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!!


IF THERE'S ANY TRUTH TO WHAT THAT PSYCHIC SAID, THEN THE CREATURES WE ENCOUNTED AT THE WDF...
SHOULD BE IN KYOTO RIGHT NOW...WHICH IN TURN MEANS...

KIT!!
!!
THAT GIRL!!

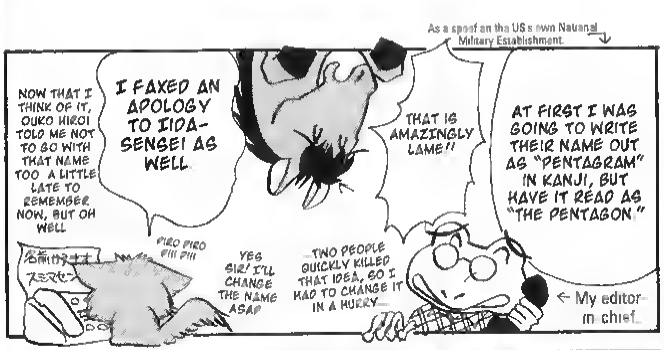
!!

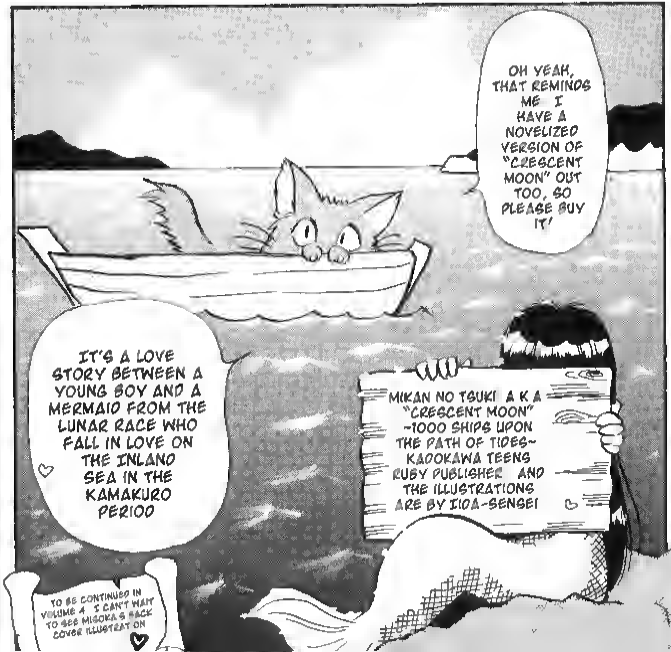
あわわわわ
NO, NO, NO, BAD!!
WAAH!!
THAT WAS HER!!
DID YOU SEE THAT GIRL, KEIKO? THAT WAS THE ONE I SAW BACK AT THE WPF
IT CAN'T BE...NOT SHIRAISHI!
...

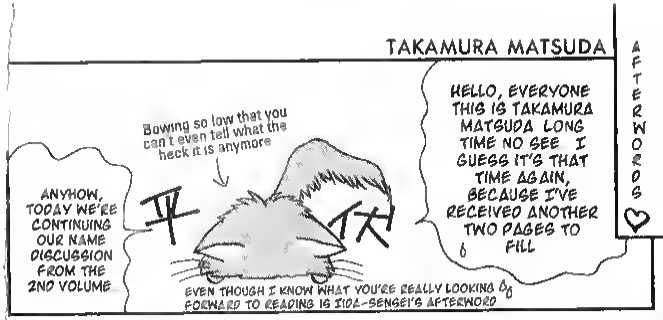

BROOO

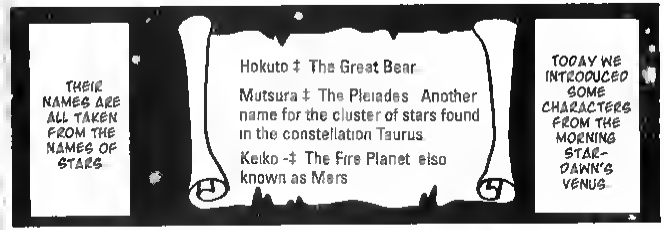
!!
OH, MITSURU YOU BIG LIAR

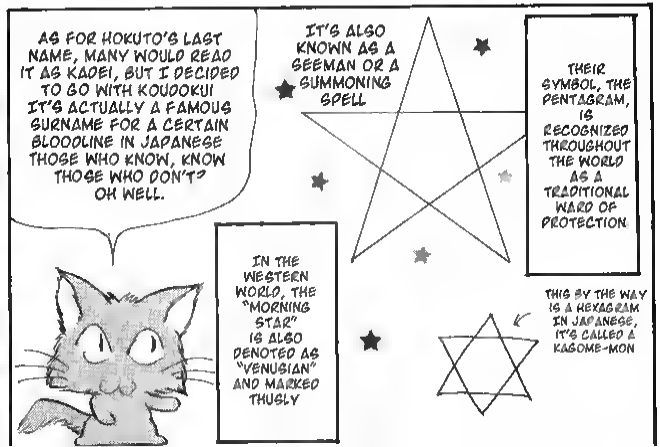
IT'S THAT CAR I SAW YESTERDAY. I WONDER IF HIMURA'S IN IT
MUST RESIST MUST NOT LOOK MUST NOT SPY MUST NOT LOOK!
BUT THEN WHY DID I JUST DUCK AND TAKE COVER?


As a spoof on the US's own National Military Establishment
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, OUKO HIROI TOLD ME NOT TO GO WITH THAT NAME TOO. A LITTLE LATE TO REMEMBER NOW, BUT OH WELL
I FAXED AN APOLOGY TO IIDA-SENSEI AS WELL
PIRO PIRO FIII FIII
YES SIR! I'LL CHANGE THE NAME ASAP
THAT IS AMAZINGLY LAME!!
TWO PEOPLE QUICKLY KILLED THAT IDEA, SO I HAD TO CHANGE IT IN A HURRY—
AT FIRST I WAS GOING TO WRITE THEIR NAME OUT AS "PENTAGRAM" IN KANJI, BUT HAVE IT READ AS "THE PENTAGON."
← My editor-in-chief


OH YEAH, THAT REMINDS ME I HAVE A NOVELIZED VERSION OF "CRESCENT MOON" OUT TOO, SO PLEASE BUY IT!
IT'S A LOVE STORY BETWEEN A YOUNG BOY AND A MERMAID FROM THE LUNAR RACE WHO FALL IN LOVE ON THE INLAND SEA IN THE KAMAKURO PERIOD
MIKAN NO TSUKI A.K.A "CRESCENT MOON" ~1000 SHIPS UPON THE PATH OF TIDES~ KADOKAWA TEENS RUBY PUBLISHER AND THE ILLUSTRATIONS ARE BY IIDA-SENSEI
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 4 I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MISORA'S BACK TO SEE MISORA'S BACK COVER ILLUSTRATION


TAKAMURA MATSUDA
AFTERWORDS
HELLO, EVERYONE THIS IS TAKAMURA MATSUDA LONG TIME NO SEE I GUESS IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN, BECAUSE I'VE RECEIVED ANOTHER TWO PAGES TO FILL
Bowing so low that you can't even tell what the heck it is anymore
ANYHOW, TODAY WE'RE CONTINUING OUR NAME DISCUSSION FROM THE 2ND VOLUME
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO READING IS IIDA-SENSEI'S AFTERWORD


THEIR NAMES ARE ALL TAKEN FROM THE NAMES OF STARS
Hokuto ‡ The Great Bear
Mutsura ‡ The Pleiades Another name for the cluster of stars found in the constellation Taurus
Keiko ‡ The Fire Planet also known as Mars
TODAY WE INTRODUCED SOME CHARACTERS FROM THE MORNING STAR-DAWN'S VENUS

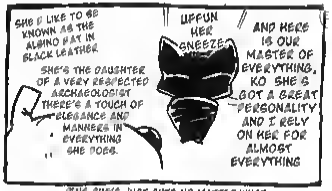

AS FOR HOKUTO'S LAST NAME, MANY WOULD READ IT AS KAOEI, BUT I DECIDED TO GO WITH KOUOOKUI IT'S ACTUALLY A FAMOUS SURNAME FOR A CERTAIN BLOODLINE IN JAPANESE THOSE WHO KNOW, KNOW THOSE WHO DON'T? OH WELL.
IT'S ALSO KNOWN AS A SEEMAN OR A SUMMONING SPELL
THEIR SYMBOL, THE PENTAGRAM, IS RECOGNIZED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AS A TRADITIONAL WARD OF PROTECTION
IN THE WESTERN WORLD, THE "MORNING STAR" IS ALSO DENOTED AS "VENUSIAN" AND MARKED THUSLY
THIS BY THE WAY IS A HEXAGRAM IN JAPANESE, IT'S CALLED A KAGOME-MON

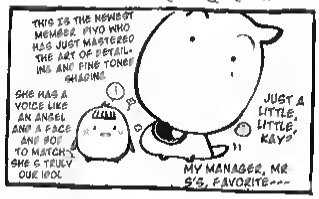
Crescent Moon

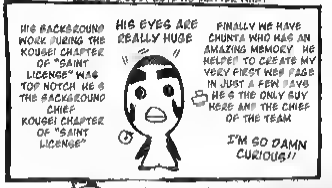
Preview: Volume 4

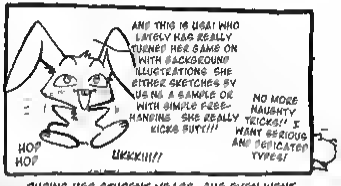
WHEN KEIKO LEARNS OF A POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN MAHIRU AND THE MOON LIGHT BANDITS, SHE CONFRONTS MAHIRU, GOING AS FAR AS BRANDING HER AS AN ENEMY AND TRAITOR. HOWEVER, THE EVER-GREGARIOUS MAHIRU EXTENDS A FRIENDLY INVITATION KEIKO IN ORDER TO CALM AN INCREASINGLY TENSE SITUATION. WILL SHE TAKE HOLD OF THE OLIVE BRANCH? OR WILL THE ALLIANCE SNAP LIKE A TWIG?

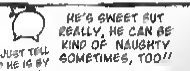
HARUKO IIDA


SHE'D LIKE TO BE KNOWN AS THE ALBINO BAT IN BLACK LEATHER.
SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF A VERY RESPECTED ARCHAEOLOGIST THERE'S A TOUCH OF ELEGANCE AND MANNERS IN EVERYTHING SHE DOES.
UFFUN HER SNEEZE
AND HERE IS OUR MASTER OF EVERYTHING, KO SHE'S GOT A GREAT PERSONALITY AND I RELY ON HER FOR ALMOST EVERYTHING


About My Assistants.
THIS IS THE NEWEST MEMBER, PIYO WHO HAS JUST MASTERED THE ART OF DETAILING AND FINE TONED SHADING
SHE HAS A VOICE LIKE AN ANGEL AND A FACE AND BOD TO MATCH SHE'S TRULY OUR IDOL
JUST A LITTLE, LITTLE, KAY?
MY MANAGER, MR S'S, FAVORITE---


PLUS SHE'S JUST CUTE NO MATTER WHAT
HIS BACKGROUND WORK DURING THE KOUSEI CHAPTER OF "SAINT LICENSE" WAS TOP NOTCH HE IS THE BACKGROUND CHIEF KOUSEI CHAPTER OF "SAINT LICENSE"
HIS EYES ARE REALLY HUGE
FINALLY WE HAVE CHUNTA WHO HAS AN AMAZING MEMORY HE HELPED TO CREATE MY VERY FIRST MEB PAGE IN JUST A FEW DAYS HE IS THE ONLY GUY HERE AND THE CHIEF OF THE TEAM
I'M SO DAMN CURIOUS!!

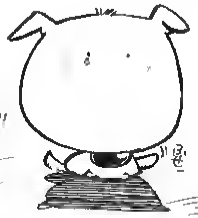

AND THIS IS USA! WHO LATELY HAS REALLY TURNED HER GAME ON WITH BACKGROUND ILLUSTRATIONS SHE EITHER SKETCHES BY US AS A SAMPLE OR WITH SIMPLE FREE-HANDING SHE REALLY KICKS BUT!!!
NO MORE NAUGHTY TRICKS!! I WANT SERIOUS AND DEDICATED TYPES!
HOP HOP
UKKK!!!



DURING HER STUDENT YEARS, SHE EVEN WENT TO AN INTERSCHOOL MEET FOR GYMNASTICS

EVERYDAY WE GIVE OUR BEST AND TRY OUR HARDEST.

THAT'S THE THIRD VOLUME!! THANKS SO MUCH EVERYONE!!



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